

LETTERS
FROM
COUNT *ALGAROTTI*
TO
LORD HERVEY

AND
The Marquis SCIPIO MAFFEI,

Containing the State of the
Trade, Marine, Revenues, and Forces

OF THE
RUSSIAN EMPIRE:

WITH THE
History of the LATE WAR
BETWEEN THE
RUSSIANS and the TURKS,
AND
Observations on the BALTIC and the
CASPIAN SEAS.

To which is added,
A Dissertation on the REIGNS of the
Seven KINGS of ROME,
AND
A Dissertation on the EMPIRE of the INCAS;
By the same Author.

Translated from the ITALIAN.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOLUME I.

L O N D O N:

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COUNT **ALGAROTTI's**

L E T T E R S

U P O N

R U S S I A, &c.

L E T T E R I.

To Lord HERVEY, Vice-Chamberlain
to the King.

Elfinore, June 10, 1739.

AFTER sailing nineteen days
without meeting with any acci-
dent, we at length arrived in the Sound.
I am apt to think, my Lord, that jour-
nals of their voyages are written daily by
people who experience much fewer ad-
ventures than we have done. Every

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B

traveller,

traveller, as you know, easily persuades himself that the seas which he has crossed are the most boisterous, and the courts which he has seen the most brilliant in the world : you will, therefore, not wonder if the details into which I shall enter are sometimes minute.

I shall begin then with telling you, that, on the 21st of last month, we sailed from Gravesend in the Augusta frigate. The wind was east, which might be looked upon as a bad omen : but the Captain of the ship, my dear Lord Baltimore, whom you know to be one of the best of men, made me think more favourably of it, as did also the company I found on board.

It consisted of young Desaguliers, whom his father sent to sea to learn the practice of navigation ; and of Mr. King, who had desired my Lord to give him his passage

passage to Peterburgh, where he intends to exhibit a course of experimental philosophy, in presence of the Empress. Imagine now what quantity of machines we are provided with, to demonstrate to all the Russias the weight of the air, the centrifugal force, the law of motion, electricity, and all the other philosophical discoveries.

What, however, undoubtedly excels them, is our ample provisions of lemons and exquisite wines; and, above all, our French cook.

Some hours after having weighed anchor, we were obliged to drop it again two miles off Sheerness, where the Dutch, in their wars with Charles II. burnt the ships that were in that road. I immediately recollected the lines in which Barnwell compares Nero pinching his guttat, during the conflagration of Rome,

to King Charles, who, to comfort himself for the melancholy sight of the burning of his fleet, played upon I know not what other instrument.

On the 22d we were obliged to cast anchor again, in sight of Harwich, not far from Spigwash, a place remarkable for the shipwreck of King James and the Duke of Marlborough; for one may apply to your coasts, what was formerly said in a different sense of the fields about Rome, *nullum sine nomine Saxum*.

A circumstance which gave me great pleasure, was our being enveloped, as it were, by a fleet of colliers coming from Newcastle. Your Lordship will agree with me, that such a fleet is not a little comic to behold. Ships, sails, rigging, mariners, every thing black. One would take it for an armament made in hell. The truth however is, that those coal
ships,

ships, the number of which, as I have been assured, amounts to above four hundred, are not of less importance than those which go to the cod fishery, upon the banks of Newfoundland.

They are the nursery of the English marine; and certainly one of the wisest acts of your parliament, is that which prohibits the carrying of coals by land from Newcastle to London. From the number and size of these vessels, it is easy to judge how vast must be the consumption of coals in the southern parts of the kingdom; and how, by means of only a small duty *per ton*, a sum was raised in thirty-five years, sufficient to build the magnificent church of St. Paul, which cost little less than a million sterling.

The 23d, we left behind us Yarmouth and England; and I had, for the first time in my life, I know not whether I

should say the pleasure, or the displeasure, of finding myself in a manner abstracted from the world; on which ever side I looked, sky and sea were the only visible objects.

Towards the evening a brisk gale arose from the south-west. The log was thrown out, I asked what rate we went at, and was answered two leagues an hour; which taught me, that on the open sea, they reckoned no longer by miles, (as upon the Thames) but by leagues. The reflection which immediately occurred to me was, that sailors, so like to gamblers by the great hazards they run, resemble them likewise in that they do not condescend to count by trifles.

Whilst I was amusing myself with this idea, the scene changed. He who ventures upon the waves must expect storms. I shall not stop to describe that which we
under-

underwent, and which lasted six whole days. You will find it, my Lord, in Homer, or in Virgil: only believe, that the *terque quaterque beati* was not wanting in favour of those who were upon land, nor the facetious Moliere's, *what the deuce had he to do in that cursed galley?*

Tossed about by immense billows; which, after having lifted me up to the clouds, threatened to bury me at the bottom of the deep; seeing the ocean transformed into about half a score enormous mountains, very different from the little hillocks of our Mediterranean, I assure you, my Lord, that those exclamations did not pass my lips, and that I had scarcely strength enough left to utter them. Let it suffice to tell you, that after tacking about for some time, with a view to put in at Newcastle, that design was altered; that, on the 30th, we

at length made land at the isle of Schelling, in Holland, and that the next day we anchored at Harlingen, which is much better provided with the necessaries of life.

You know, my Lord, the towns of Holland; whoever has seen one of them, has seen them all. Every where the houses are built after the same manner, the streets run in strait lines, canals water them, rows of trees shade them, and the cleanliness is even scrupulously nice. Such is Harlingen, from whence we sailed the first of this month, after having laid in a fresh store of provisions. A brisk south-west wind took us out of the shallows and rocks, which all those coasts are full of, and carried us three good leagues an hour till the morning of the next day.

Here, my Lord, another storm: but I will pass it over with only telling you, that

it

lasted with great violence near two days; that we were on the point of cutting away our main mast, the extraordinary height of which shook the body of the ship too much, when the sea began to calm; and that, on the fourth, its waters became quite smooth.

The 5th, fair wind: the 6th, we judged, by an observation of the height of the sun, on the exactness of which we could not however quite depend, that we were in fifty-eight degrees of latitude, and towards the evening we discovered Jutland on the south east. The thickness of the fog prevented our distinguishing the Scharif: this is a point of land, which separates the ocean from the Danish sea; and which, I assure you, we sought for with all our eyes and hearts. At length, the day before yesterday, the lead informed us that we had doubled it. Yesterday we left on the left hand, or (to speak more properly)

properly) to the east, the coast of Hail-land, so formidable to sailors, because it rises perpendicular from the sea, and affords neither shore nor anchorage; and at four o'clock in the afternoon we cast anchor at Elfinore, from whence I now write.

You see, my Lord, that if I was at all inclined to enter into minute particulars, I could easily make a complete journal of our voyage, and even embellish it with scientific narrations. I might tell you, for example, that on the 23^d of last month, about midnight, we perceived an *aurora borealis*, in the shape of a bow, the summit of which faced the west, and was intersected, so far as it was possible for me to judge, by the azimuth of the declension of the needle, which was from ten to twelve degrees west; a circumstance which agrees well with what I have heard at Greenwich, from the mouth of your
old

old Eudoxus Halley, who seeks for affinities, as well of the direction of the load-stone, as of the emission of the vapour which forms the northern lights, with the poles of the nucleus he supposes in the earth.

I should likewise tell you, that one day when we were becalmed, Mr. King anatomized before us, with great dexterity, the eye of a sheep, whose body was afterwards as cleverly dressed by our Martial. He shewed us the coroides of it, which was green, and assured us that is its constant colour in all animals that feed upon grass. Has nature given them that coat, fit only to reflect green rays, in order that the grass should make the stronger impression on their eyes, and that there should be a kind of attraction between those animals and their food? Or is it, my Lord, that their coroides, by continually reflecting green rays, soon becomes

becomes of that colour, and can then no longer reflect any other? In fact, do we know the physical force of custom, and the changes it may make in our organization? Did not your predecessor Demosthenes, by dint of practice, at length learn to pronounce distinctly the letter P, which nature seemed to have rendered him incapable of? A person who should for a long time repeat only the same word, would perhaps become dumb in regard to all others.

I likewise made, a few days ago, an observation in optics, which proves, that the errors of our senses generally serve to rectify the judgments of our mind. You know, my Lord, that of two very distant objects, that which is most lighted seems the nearest. Two ships were steering the same course, at a very great distance from us; only one of them received the rays of the sun, and it seemed to

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me the nearest; but when they were both in the same line with my eye, the lighted ship disappeared and was eclipsed by the other; so that that which I judged to be the farthest off, was in reality the nearest by a full half league.

But to have done with sea adventures and phænomena; for I perceive that you are impatient to hear something about this land, and that that is principally what can interest your curiosity. The sea grows so narrow here, between Denmark and Sweden, that it is not wider than the Thames at Gravesend. This Streight differs from all others, in that no current is observed in it, unless it be agitated by a north or a south wind; but in return, either of these, not meeting with any resistance, forms instantly a very rapid one, according to its impulse.

The coasts of Sweden are wild and naked; on the contrary, those of Denmark,

mark, that is to say, of Zealand, are smiling, and well cultivated. Surely, if they had always been so agreeable, the Teutons would not have abandoned them to seek elsewhere for settlements, and cut out work for our Marius's. The truth is, that they may now vie with even the fields of England. Their tufted groves, the gentle slope of their hills, their meadows which descend to the sea, and the emerald green which shades the whole, form a most pleasing sight.

The magnificent Castle of Cronenburgh rises in a picturesque manner upon the shore: it is covered with copper, and, by means of its citadel, it gives laws to the Sound. This castle seems to look down with disdain upon poor Helsenberg, which, on the opposite shore, returns the salute to the ships that, on entering into this streight, do homage to the Danish Dardanelles. This

wretched

wretched little town is not, however, destitute of glory: in the time of Charles XII. she saw from her towers Swedish peasants, commanded by Steinbock, cut in pieces the best troops of Denmark.

We ride here in the midst of, perhaps, an hundred ships; some go, others come, and every instant new ones arrive. There is always in this road a Danish frigate on guard: she collects the tolls, which amount to near thirty thousand pounds sterling a-year.

I read lately in Lord Molesworth's account of Denmark, that the Hanse towns of the Baltic gave formerly a sum of money yearly to the Danes, for them to keep beacons upon this passage, nearly in the same manner as ships now pay in England, a kind of contribution towards keeping a floating light-house at the Nore, &c. But, since that, Denmark

mark having increased considerably in power, and the Hanse towns having lost the greatest part of their's; what was at first a matter of agreement, has in time been made a claim of right. How many similar metamorphoses do we discover, my Lord, in history, which cannot be called by any better name than the annals of fraud and violence? Be that as it may, the King of Denmark, master of the entrance of the Sound, is precisely to the Baltic, what the King of Sardinia, sovereign of the Alps, is at this day to Italy.

However, the toll which each vessel pays, according to its burthen, is not very considerable; it is only the number of ships that can make it amount so high. It is computed that, one year with another, upwards of two thousand pass annually through the Sound. In this number are reckoned six hundred Swedish, they being by the last treaty subject to
this

this kind of tribute, from which they were formerly exempted; a thousand Dutch, who, from their marshes, go to seek in the North for iron, planks, pitch, hemp, corn, and, in general, almost every necessary of life; three or four hundred English, and three or four French. Lubeck, a city greatly fallen from her antient splendor, scarcely furnishes more; nor does Dantzick, which however still makes some figure. Lastly, the Russians, who, like the Americans a few years ago, ranked navigation among the arts of another world, send two or three

Just one ship of that nation, with a great Dutch belly, lay this morning pretty near us: the whole crew of it is Russian, according to the report of the Captain of the Danish frigate, a man equally civil and intelligent. I cannot, my Lord, express the pleasure

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which all these new objects give me:
I think myself almost transported into
another universe.

But our Ship is getting under sail: I
close my letter, and send it to the
Consul, who will convey it to you at
St. James's. Vouchsafe, my Lord,
not to forget a poor traveller, who,
sailing to the North-east, casts his eyes
from time to time upon the rhumb of
the compass that is to guide him back
to you.

LETTER II.

L E T T E R II.

To the same.

Revel, June 17. 1739.

ON the tenth, as I before wrote to you, my Lord, we sailed from Elfinore; and it was in company with forty or fifty ships which we soon got a-head of. An hour after, we left on the East the island of Huen, or Uranienburg, heretofore the residence of Tycho-Brahe. You know, my Lord, the philosophical pilgrimage which Picard made thither in the last century, and the deplorable condition of that heavenly isle, in which there are only two half-covered huts, and scarce any vestige of that famous observatory where Tycho made observations, which, though prior to the telescope,

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constitute æras in the history of astronomy.

The situation of this island, placed exactly at the entrance of the Sound, renders it of great importance; and a fort, with artillery, seem fitter for it than an observatory and astrolabe, especially as, notwithstanding its bold rising from the sea, its horizon is not so free as an astronomer would wish, and as might be expected from an island.

At about two o'clock we passed almost close by Copenhagen, and the seamen made us notice that the water there is more transparent than in other places. We counted in the port upwards of thirty ships of war upon the stocks, and they seemed to me the finest I had ever seen. The King's new palace stands conspicuous in the middle

middle of the city; it is not yet finished; and, we are assured, that it will be extremely magnificent.

We likewise coasted the little island of Amak, which supplies Copenhagen with garden-stuff: a part of it is inhabited by Dutchmen. It is said, on this occasion, that Christian II, having married Isabella, sister of Charles V, desired the Archduchess Margaret, their aunt, Governess of the Low-Countries, to send him some good Flemish Gardeners, in order that the Queen's table might be more elegantly served; and that she sent them some Dutch families, who settled in the island of Amak, as the Venetian Gondoliers that Lewis XIV sent for, did at Versailles.

Having afterwards run gently aground, to avoid a bank called the

Draker, we passed over against Humblebeck, a hamlet situated seven miles from Copenhagen, where Charles XII landed; when, at the age of eighteen, he besieged that capital by land, and blocked it up by sea. We had just before sailed over the place where Charles XI, with his army, crossed the sea on foot, trusting both his person, and the principal forces of his kingdom, to a crust of ice.

Turning afterwards to the East, we stood out at sea off Cape Falstarbo, situated in Scania, and one of the most dangerous passes of the Baltic. We took care to drop the lead, from time to time, in these seas, where the Czar Peter the Great had so often cast it, when, in 1716, commanding his fleet combined with those of the Danes, the Dutch, and the English,

his campaign terminated in an exact
sounding of all these coasts:

In this manner it was that we proceeded from Scha-Rif to that of Falsterbo, sailing almost in the middle of two nations, which, for having been closely united formerly, are but the more divided now. The greatest animosity reigns between them. The sea is the field of glory of the one, and the land that of the other. In effect, it appears that the Swedes, born in a barren mountainous country, full of mines of iron, must naturally be fittest for military exercises; and that the Danes, who inhabit a number of islands, and who possess Norway, a kingdom situated upon the ocean, and addicted solely to navigation, must have the advantage therein. Besides four thousand seamen, whom the King of Denmark keeps always ready

at Copenhagen, Norway can furnish him sixteen thousand excellent ones.

As to the rest, you know, my Lord, how much the Swedes have, of late years, applied themselves to the sea, to manufactures, and commerce. Free countries, of which Sweden now is one, are the only proper climates for those arts. Your Parliament has great reason to be alarmed at the new regulation lately published at Stockholm, which prohibits the importation of all foreign manufactures: so that if England continues to take iron from the Swedes, instead of an hundred and fifty thousand pounds sterling, she will have with them a passive trade, which will cost her upwards of three hundred thousand every year. And who can tell what they will make of their iron, when

when they shall export it ready wrought?

It is incredible, said to us the English Consul at Elsinore, what numbers of Swedish ships now sail the seas, whilst in the days of despotism scarce any of that nation were seen. One may form some idea of this matter from the six hundred ships which pass the Streight every year, and in which are not comprized those that traffic only in the Baltic, or which are fitted out at Gottenburgh, a port situated beyond the Sound.

Among several regulations made by the States of Sweden, to encourage the maritime commerce of their country, I will instance to you only that which allows officers of the King's ships to take employment on board of merchant ships, to exercise themselves in navigation,

navigation, and continue to be useful to the republic; which is of a piece with that other, so antient among them, whereby all their soldiers are husbandmen during peace. Each province has its regiments formed of the inhabitants of the country, and the government gives to the officers a house and a portion of land, so that they live amidst their soldiers, as an abbot among his monks: they call them together, make them go through their exercises, and review them at regular stated times. Count Monteculi, who was long prisoner in Sweden, in the war which lasted thirty years, endeavoured to introduce this practice in the dominions of the House of Austria.

After having passed Falsterbo, we coasted, on the eleventh, the island of Bornholm; on the twelfth, that of Gothland; on the thirteenth, saw the

the little island of the Faro; and, on the fourteenth, after a calm of some hours, there arose so thick a fog, that, not to run upon the island of Dagho, situated at the mouth of the gulph of Finland, we were obliged to reef our sails, and advance slowly, the lead-line in hand. The depth lessened all at once, and we were forced to tack about instantly and steer off. Towards evening the wind freshened, the fog still continuing, which in narrow seas is more dangerous than a sudden squall upon the ocean. I then said to the wind, as Ajax did to Jupiter,

*Dispel this cloud, the light of Heaven
restore;*

Give us to see!

But I only muttered it to myself. Seamen do not like to hear talk of the wind, the weather, or the road they are going; they are full of superstitions,

tions, and in that again they resemble gamblers; the one or the other would subject to combinations and rules, what is absolutely the effect of mere chance. At length the fog dispersed, and we entered the gulph about midnight. Though the sky was not serene, the air was so clear, that I could read with ease. In this climate, towards the summer solstice, the degree of light at midnight answers to that of Italy, in the same season, a quarter of an hour after sun-set: and if one cannot say here, like those who go upon the whale fishery, in the frozen sea, at midnight fine sun; nothing prevents saying, at least, at midnight fine light.

Without those long twilights it would be impossible to navigate in these narrow seas, filled as they are,
from

from one end to the other, with islands, banks, and rocks. What difference between the immense plains of your ocean, and this Baltic, where one meets every day new lands. I protest to you, my Lord, that one pays very dear in bad weather, for the pleasure which the sight of them affords when it is fine. Accordingly, from November to April, few ships dare venture in this sea.

On the fifteenth, we anchored off Revel. Desirous as we were to get to Russia as soon as possible, we were still less tempted to put in at this capital of Esthonia, than we had been to stop at Copenhagen, which was far more inviting to us; when a good South-west wind, which filled our sails to our wishes, at once sunk. "The sea," says an Italian poet, "is like human life; — instabi-

mont

“instability is its portion. The hope,
 “with which man lulls himself, is as
 “deceitful as the joy to which it gives
 “birth is transient; fine weather, like
 “fine days, lasts but a moment.”

Just so, instead of that pleasing
 South-west wind, there arose a North-
 east one, which, blowing with incredi-
 ble impetuosity, threatened to drive
 us directly upon the most frightful of
 all the coasts. Happily we were still
 before that Revel which we despised;
 she received us into her bosom, after
 we had undergone a just fear of strik-
 ing against certain rocks upon the
 shore of the island of Ulfsoon, which
 lies at the entrance of the harbour.
 The fog did not suffer us to distin-
 guish them; and it was not till we
 were on the very point of touching
 them,

them, that the surge, which foamed
around them declared our danger.

After having escaped it, we dropt
anchor at about seven o'clock, within
a mile of the town. The agitation of
the sea was violent all the night, this
road being particularly exposed to the
North-east.

The manner in which we were
landed is quite agreeable. In stormy
weather the pinnace is taken on board,
and kept covered there. Our's was
on board; my Lord and I stepped into
it; none else chose to be of our party.
The sailors of which our little crew
consisted, were stationed each to his
post; one at the steerage, one at the
foot of the mast to hoist up the sail,
the rest at the head and along the side,
with boat-hooks to prevent our dash-
ing

ing against the frigate. Our swing was to be executed in musical measure. Two ropes which proceeded, one from the head and the other from the stern of the pinnace, being well fastened together, the longest was passed over the pully at the end of the yard of the main-mast. At the first whistle, we are up in the air; they wait a moment for the wave then rising against the side of the ship to retire, and a second whistle, making the rope run, lets us down at once into the sea. Instantly our seamen execute diligently their manœuvres, they push us off, turn the head towards land, whip up the sail, our steersman parries dexterously monstrous waves, which threaten to swallow us up, we pass over them, and, in the twinkling of an eye, we are on shore.

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Such was the rapidity with which we went, that we could hardly see in our way a very fine mole, furnished with a numerous artillery, which forms the port of Revel, and two other batteries on a level with the water, which defend its entrance. The rest of the fortifications is not so considerable: the most important are on the side next the land; and yet they cannot be compared in any shape to those of Riga, the capital of Livonia, and frontier of the empire in this part. They are now repairing, and a detachment of good workmen is daily expected in this city from Russia. It consists of six hundred Turkish slaves, and as many Christian malefactors.

Here, instead of hanging a criminal, he is condemned, as formerly in Egypt, to labour at the public works; and

this punishment, which you in England would deem an excessive rigour, is scarcely sufficient to restrain a race of barbarians, ignorant even of the name of Liberty, that propitious deity, which, according to the expression of one of their poets, a minister of state, enlivens and embellishes the very rocks and desarts of the countries she deigns to inhabit.

The garrison of Revel consists of three regiments. The soldiers belonging to them are not remarkable for their height; but in return they are strong-made, robust, and very well disciplined: we were told, that there was among them a considerable number of Tartars. You may imagine, my Lord, with what attention I looked at troops, which have furnished in our days so many materials for history. An Eng-

English merchant settled in this city, and who is our antiquary here, observing that I stopped often to consider them, told me, that I should see quite another thing at Petersburg.

Though no ships are built here, and they are only careened and sheathed, we were not the less pleased at seeing the admiralty, at the head of which is a certain English Oliver, well versed, as we were assured, in naval architecture. The instructions which he gave us for the rest of our voyage came very reasonably. We have experienced, that the sea-charts are by no means correct, and in all our crew there is not one man who ever sailed upon the Baltic; he too, through age and brandy, has lost his memory. We likewise received some instructions from the captain of a frigate, which is

constantly stationed at Revel. This is the first Russian ship of war that I have yet seen. I assure you, my Lord, it would figure well among the English. Both here and in Denmark, the uniform of the sailors, as well as that of the soldiers, has a very fine effect.

Notwithstanding the ships of war, the admiralty, the garrison, the fortifications, and the artillery, the people here bless the government, and are, I believe, the only ones; but, in truth, they have cause so to do. All the privileges which they enjoyed when the Russians possessed themselves of this province, in the time of Charles XII. were not only confirmed to them then, but, which is still more extraordinary, they have been religiously respected to this day; so that those Livonian writers, who have spoken so virulently of

the Russians, would probably recant if they were to come again into the world.

It is not subject to any burthen; - the principal revenue of the empire here, consisting in certain lands, called *Crown Lands*, which once belonged to Sweden. These people govern themselves by their own laws, which are the same as those of Lubeck; Revel having formerly been a Hanse town. It still keeps a company of soldiers, who are immediately dependent on the magistracy, and mount guard every night with the Russians. It is hardly so much as known here, that the empire is at war with the Turks, the people of this place not contributing any thing towards the expence of the war: and accordingly there reigns every where among them a profound silence with respect to matters of state. A man,

who should expect to find gazettes and news-papers in the coffee houses of Revel, as at London, would be greatly disappointed.

But, my Lord, when I speak of the happiness of these people, we must except that part, the most numerous of all, which cultivates the earth; that part, so slighted and so deserving of respect, whose happiness Virgil has so harmoniously sung, and which is certainly a stranger to it in these countries. The peasants here are slaves, as in Poland and Russia; their owner sells them like the cattle which they rear. Accordingly, it is not said here, such an one has so much income; but such an one has so many thousands of peasants. The yearly product, which they bring in to their Lord, is estimated at a rouble a head. It is really shocking to see these poor

poor wretches; humanity shudders, and is incensed at their appearance. Figure to yourself, my Lord, skeletons in rags, with a livid countenance and a filthy beard. The women, even before the first bloom of youth is well past, no longer retain any vestige of their sex; but in their dress and behaviour, are exactly like their hideous husbands.

The town is of a piece with the inhabitants of the country. The houses in it look more like granaries than any thing else; one reason for which may perhaps also be, that the principal trade of the province consists in corn. It is very plentiful throughout all Livonia, and perfect in its quality. The Swedes, the Danes, and the Dutch, fetch it away in large quantities; and these last, among other commodities, bring in exchange for it a great

deal of salt, which they go for to the Mediterranean. There is likewise a very great consumption of it in Russia; the common food of the soldiers, and of the generality of the people there, being bread and salt.

One would scarcely believe, from any first account, that countries bathed by the sea, should be under the necessity of importing salt: but the saltness of the sea is in proportion to the heat of the climate, and the waters of the Baltic might almost be called fresh, in comparison to those of the Mediterranean. Throughout the greatest part of Russia; from the Caspian sea to Moscow, and still farther North, their salt is brought from Astracan; and foreigners supply the Northern provinces of the empire with it, as well as with tobacco, an American superfluity;

perfluity; the use of which has insensibly spread so much, that it forms a considerable part of the revenue of the European governments. Russia, in exchange for it, besides corn, gives hemp, flax, and timber.

The greatest part of the trade of this province is carried on at Riga, where, in some years, there come upwards of two hundred Dutch ships, besides a very great number from Sweden. Esthonia and Livonia were, and still are, the Egypt and the Sicily of Sweden; without them it could not subsist. Accordingly the treaty of Aland allows the Swedes to take annually a certain quantity of lasts of corn, free of all duty.

In the middle of the granaries of Revel, a triumphal arch of wood, erected

erected in honour of that Catharine, who, at Pruth, saved the Czar and the Empire, and was worthy to succeed Peter the Great, surprized me not a little. The taste of the architecture, and the stile of the inscriptions, reminded me, in these Northern regions, of the South of Europe.

I was likewise not a little surprized to find here a sort of tea, exquisitely well flavoured, and of which the flowers were still upon the stalk: it was easy to judge that it could not be a production of this country which was scarcely delivered from the snows, and, though in the middle of June, trees hardly begin to be in sap. This tea comes from China to Petersburg by the caravans; that is said to be what keeps it so fresh: as it is a very delicate plant, the smell of the hold of a ship always

ways corrupts it a little. I send you a sample of it, my Lord, as to a lover, I might say a professor, of tea; and I embark again in the pinnace, to return on board, and continue our voyage.

LETTER III.

LETTER III.

To the same.

Cronstot, June 21, 1739.

AFTER having spent near a month upon the sea, we are at length set down upon the wished-for land. To finish the journal of our voyage, for, without being aware of it, I think I have led myself into one, I will tell you, my Lord, that on the 17th, about eleven o'clock in the morning, we weighed anchor from Revel, and with the help of a gentle South-west wind, we passed happily between the Revel stone, the Devil's eye, and the other monsters of this coast; though not without running great risks.

Oliver

Oliver's instructions served us for a pilot, and pointed out to us the dangerous places. We were likewise warned of them by streamers of different colours, as one is upon the coasts of England and Holland, by floating casks. They are fastened to great crosses of wood fixed in the middle of the rocks. Two Russian galliots visit constantly these roads, to see that the streamers are in their proper places: their business likewise is to find out new rocks, and to this end they are perpetually sounding. In 1515, one was discovered, in the middle of the gulph, by the wreck of a Dutch man of war, which was sailing in the midst of a squadron, in the finest weather that could be: only five or six of the crew were saved. This rock was five or six feet under water, and so sharp, that it split the keel from head to stern, and in the same instant laid the ship open.

If

If any thing is to be wondered at, it is that such fatal accidents do not happen oftener. Before the foundation of Petersburgh, it was seldom that any one penetrated into this sea, beyond Revel and Narva. Men were not then attracted thither by the prospect of gain, as they are now; almost all the trade of Russia having been transferred from Archangel to the New Capital. Whatever instructions one may have, it is therefore necessary not to advance but with the lead in hand. The Dutch chart of the Baltic by Abraham Maas, which we have found to be the best of all, superior even to that of your Admiral Norris, is often defective, as soon as one begins to enter into the gulph: and you know, my Lord, that in matters of navigation no faults are small ones, any more than in phyfic and in war.

On the 18th, we passed the isle of Hogland; and at noon we discovered Sæskar, which is but ten leagues from Cronslot: this gave us good hopes. We had, however, still to guard against a current which runs with great rapidity from Cronslot to Hogland, and bears very strong against the coast of Finland; yet more to be dreaded than that of Ingria and Esthonia, on account of several prominent ridges of rocks, which defend the shore like so many out-works. Don't you think, my Lord, that our voyage would have a conspicuous figure in the *Odyssey*, or the *Eneid*? Yet not the least mention will be made of it; though by the price of insurances, which may be called the thermometer of trade, it is easy to see that the navigation of the Baltic is reckoned the most dangerous of all.

The

The same day, towards evening, we anchored within cannon shot of Cronslot, to which place a Russian pilot guided us through a very winding canal. He was sent to us by the man of war stationed to guard the coast where a ship of that kind lies always at anchor, four miles from Cronstadt. Cronslot is a castle which defends the entrance of the port of this island. It is situated at the mouth of the Neva which, falling into the lake Ladoga after having bathed the walls of Petersburg, empties itself into the gulph. This river, the impetuosity of which is not abated by this narrow, and far from deep, sea, is the cause of the current which runs, as I before said, from Cronslot to Hogland, and throws vessels upon the coast of Finland.

The Czar had no sooner formed the design of founding Petersburg, than

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Vol.

e saw the importance of Cronstadt,
 which is its first out-work; and he ac-
 cordingly fortified it in such a manner,
 that few places in the world can be
 compared to it. Figure to yourself,
 my Lord, that, to enter into the port,
 one must pass between Cronstot, a for-
 tress with four bastions, and a battery
 called St. Peter's, mounted with up-
 wards of an hundred pieces of cannon;
 and that an enemy would have to
 encounter the fire of all this artillery.
 That is not all; to go up the canal,
 which leads to the port, the wind
 must be precisely in one corner, so
 narrow is the passage; and if the sig-
 nals, which point out the rocks and
 shoals, were taken away, it would be
 impossible for the most skilful pilot to
 avoid them: yet there is not any
 other road to take. Out of the canal,
 there is not above five or six feet depth
 of water upon the coast of Ingria, and
 Vol. I. E upon

upon that of Finland, there is not
enough to carry ships of war.

Most of the cannons which defend
Cronstot are of iron; but so nearly
made, and so well burnished, that they
look like steel. All the works are of
wood; but it is intended to make them
of stone, and this has been already be-
gun to be executed upon part of the
mole. A magnificent canal is now
finishing, the keys of which are of
stone that is brought from the neigh-
bourhood of Narva, and which is truly
a work worthy of the Romans. It is
wide enough for two large ships to pass
conveniently a-breast, and its depth
in proportion; it is to be upwards of
a mile and a half long. At its extre-
mity will be dry docks for ships of war.
The Czar, who planned this under-
taking, had therein two capital ob-
jects; the one to provide for the pre-

servati-

preservation of the ships, which rot in the
fresh water of the Neva; the other by
drawing them thus up upon land, to
secure them against any bombard-
ment.

You know, my lord, that the ma-
rine was the favourite object of Peter
the great. He used to say, that an
English admiral is greater than a Czar.
Besides the numerous advantages of
which navigation is the source, what
made this *Mediterranean* prince parti-
cularly fond of it, was perhaps like-
wise that his creative genius found
more room to exert itself in this branch
than in any other.

We talk of maritime affairs all the
day long with Admiral Gordon; that
venerable old Scotchman, at whose
house we are lodged. He lately com-
manded the Russian fleet at Dan-

zick, and is one of the most amiable
seafaring men in the whole world.
The marine is likewise the general
subject of our conversation at rear-ad-
miral O Brian's, who left England to
enter into the service of this crown. I
can therefore assure you, my lord, that
I should now be able to talk like a
seaman, even with your brother cap-
tain Hervey.

But to cut short the encomiums
which I might be apt to bestow up-
on the Russian marine, in this first
moment of enthusiasm; methinks I
already hear you say, what is incontes-
tably true, that a nation which has
a great number of merchant-ships
cannot possibly keep up many ships
of war, and that for want of hands
to work them. How can sailors be
got in a country whose trading ships

a man may count upon his fingers
ends? Upon what can an embargo be
laid in case of need?

Every prince who has men, can
soon make soldiers of them. A
labourer, a peasant, becomes easily
accustomed to marches, to heat, to
cold, to the fatigues and exercises of
war. Sailors are not so speedily cre-
ated; they must have been habituated
almost from their very infancy, to the
air of the sea, to another element, to
a new kind of life as it were: which
made a very sensible gentleman say,
that a marine was the only thing a
great prince could not make. There-
fore the Russians, who do not possess
a very extensive maritime country, and
who neither have, nor can have a
Cromwell's act of navigation, should
be content to share with the Turks, the

empire of the land, and confine themselves to that through necessity, as their neighbours have done out of choice,

The Russians strive however to remedy these inconveniences, as much as they can, and it may be said that they almost force nature. Every year they make expeditions upon the Baltic, with squadrons of seven or eight ships full of young men whom old seamen instruct; and in time these pupils become a fleet of sailors themselves. Very lately there were ten or twelve thousand of them, almost all of whom perished upon the sea of Azoph, to which the government had sent them to man the fleets fitted out against the Turks on account of the present war.

Casan could formerly have furnished sailors enough for the navigation of the

Don, without its being necessary to send them from so great a distance. This city had also in the time of Peter the great, a well provided arsenal, which, by the changes that have happened in the political system, is now absolutely neglected. In short, the Russian marine seems greatly fallen; the number of seamen now residing at Cronstadt is reduced to a few hundreds: so that the work of the English, who presides here over the department of the sea, has been in a manner annihilated by the Germans, who are at the head of the land forces.

The Czar assigned to the admiralty an income of three hundred thousand pounds sterling; an immense sum in a country where the government does with two shillings what it would be im-

possible to get done in England for
guinea. He ordered, that this sum
should never be applied to any other
use, on any account whatsoever: but
you know, my lord, the common fate
of the wills of princes; and according-
ly it is asserted, that in this way among
others, the intention of the founder has
been not a little departed from.

Appearances are however as de-
ceitful here as in other places.
upon entering Cronstadt, one would
think all Russia busied solely about
her marine. The first object
perceived was a ship of war, of
enormous bulk, the rigging of which
was then working at: it is perhaps
the hugest machine that now floats
upon the waters; it is pierced for
hundred and forty guns, which
to be all of brass, and the infir-

of it are as much ornamented with carvings as the Empress's pleasure boats. It is called the *Anna*, from the name of the sovereign, and was built by one Brown, an Englishman. The model which he made for it is a sixty gun ship; a model worthy of the grandeur and majesty of this empire.

We anchored close by the *Anne*, which would deserve to have the ocean to range in, instead of this hole the gulph of Finland. Probably, some years hence, she may sail in company with thirty or forty other ships now lying in the same harbour. Among them we distinguished the *Catharine*, which was the Czar's favourite ship, and the *Peter*, built exactly according to a drawing of his own. This last has the handsomest and most ornamented stern I ever beheld; it was the admiral ship

ship in the expedition against Dantzick. All the ships, some careening, others rigging out, and others again ready to put to sea, form the most picturesque effect that can be imagined: a Vandevelde would study them with as much attention, as Pannini does the ruins of a temple or of the Coliseum. There are eighteen or twenty of them fit to sail.

But of what use can these huge ships be on so narrow a sea, whose very middle too is navigable only within the compass of a few miles? Such however was the prevailing passion of the Czars, he would have ships; he would have them of the first rate, and what more, he would have them built in his own neighbourhood, than which he could not have chosen a more improper place. Men of this profession think that the arsenal and the admiralty

should

should rather have been placed at Revel, than at Petersburg and Cronstadt where they are.

In effect, at Revel the water is salt, at least as much so as the Baltic can be, and ships keep longer sound in it. The ice there takes later and melts sooner than upon the Neva; so that they might have gone out earlier and with less danger. This is the reason why the Swedish fleets were always at sea several weeks before those of the Russians, whatever dispatch these last made; and so again, blocked up with ice in the harbour of Archangel and in the White Sea, the Dutch always anticipated them in the whale fishery.

There is yet more, say judges: when both the river and the canal of Cronstadt are at length clear of ice, so that ships

ships may go down them and put to sea, the wind must be due east, where as in these parts the wind is west westerly almost all the summer; and besides as it is at Peterburgh that the ships are built, they must be brought down to Cronstot, which cannot be done without danger, nor without considerable expence. Between Petersburgh and Peterhoff, a country seat of the Czar's, situated upon the Neva, is a shallow where the water is not above eight feet deep. It would be in vain to expect the tide's coming up thither to float the ships, as in rivers whose mouths are upon the ocean; it is absolutely necessary to transport them in the Dutch way, by dint of hands and machines, which is not less troublesome than expensive.

Accordingly there are thoughts of obviating a part of these inconveni-

It is intended, as soon as the present war shall be ended, to dig a wide and deep canal, from Peterburgh through the middle of Peterhoff, so that it shall be no longer necessary to use machines to bring the ships down to Cronstot. This too was one of the Czar's plans; he had settled the place of building them to be in his capital, near his palace; and after they were launched into the water, he would have wished to see them pass amidst the terraces and groves of his country seat.

Every morning he went out early to visit the dock-yards, and staid there an hour or two; not only to give orders and examine the works, but to saw and caulk with his own hands.

This was undoubtedly to set an example

ple to his subjects, whom he wanted to make seamen of at any rate.

In the same spirit, he ordered that no Boyard should come to court either on horse back, or in a coach, but only in a barge; he likewise enjoined them to go no longer over bridges, and not to cross rivers but in a boat, and what is more, with a sail, without using oars like Cyrus, who, to accustom the Persians to horses, forbade them almost the use of their legs. But whatever may have been his policy, it seems incredible, that in neglecting the easy means of fitting out his fleets at Revel, and pitching upon Petersburg and Cronstadt for the places of building and equipping his ships; he fell into the same error, though of far different importance, as Lewis XIV, who preferred for his residence, the arid fol-

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of Versailles to the delightful situation
of St. Germain; and that one might
likewise have said to Peter the great,
alluding to his arsenal, *so well, or but
a favourite without merit.*

It is still more evident, that these seas
are as little made for large ships, as
a lee-shore is for a whale. Galleys are
here the proper things. Be there
never so little water, there is always
enough for them; they glide between
the little islands and the rocks; they
can land any where. The Czar
was sensible of it at last, and sent
for galley-builders from Venice. I
met with one of them, greatly ad-
vanced in years, and was not a little
surprized to hear terminations in ab-
out sixty degrees of latitude.

The galleys that one sees here are
of different sizes; there are small
ones

ones, which carry about an hundred and thirty men and others much larger. They are all armed with two pieces of cannon on the prow, and furnished with chace-guns, and swivels on the sides. The Czar gave to each of them the name of a Russian fish; nor are they numbered, as the legions were: there are upwards of an hundred and thirty of them, and they are to be much more numerous: by this means, an army of thirty thousand men is transported with great ease.

Rowing is to the Russian soldiers what the exercise of swimming was to the Romans. Every foot soldier learns to handle the oar at the same time as the musket, by which means, without maritime commerce, without embargo, the Russians have always crews ready for their galleys. They cast anchor even

night

Vol.

night, and land where it is least expected: when disembarked, they draw them up upon the land, range them in a circle, with their spurs and artillery pointed outward, and thus they have in a trice a fortified camp. They leave five or six battalions to guard it, and with the rest of their troops overrun the country, and lay it under contribution. The expedition ended, they re-embark, and begin again in another quarter. Sometimes they transport their vessels, from one water to another, over a slip of land; as was practised by the antients on several occasions, and particularly after the example of Mahomet II, at the siege of Constantinople.

The Swedes can certify whether these Russian gallies are formidable: they have seen them ravage their

rich mines of Norkoping, the whole coast of Gothland and Sudermania, and shew themselves even before Stockholm. They relate on this occasion a pretty extraordinary adventure, which in a Greek or Roman history, would not figure badly among the miracles and prodigies with which they are filled.

It happened, I know not in what year, that the waters of the Neva uncommonly swelled, overflowed their banks, and reached a neighbouring pond of sterlets. The sterlet is a remarkably firm and finely flavoured fish, found only in the Northern rivers of Russia. Escaping from their prison, they wandered at large in the sea, and some of them were caught by the fishermen at Walxholm, and between the other islands near Stockholm.

holm. This was immediately construed
 a warning from Heaven, into that
 the Russians were going to make a de-
 scent upon those countries; and, in
 fact, the omen was soon after veri-
 fied.

I will not omit another particular;
 which, though equally natural, is not
 for that the less extraordinary. Of
 what wood do you think the ships are
 built at Peterburgh? It is, my Lord,
 of a species of oak which is at least two
 summers upon the road before it ar-
 rives. It comes ready cut by the car-
 penter from the kingdom of Casan: it
 goes a little way up the Wolga, then
 the Tuertza, passes through a canal
 into the sea, from thence into the
 Mesta; and, by means of the Volcova,
 falls into a canal which conveys it into
 the Lake Ladoga, from whence it de-

scends at last by the Neva to Peterburg. I saw in this port a sloop built at Casan, from whence it came by the rivers I have just mentioned, which join the Caspian sea to the Baltic, and are a quite different thing from the famous canal of Languedoc.

Formerly the wood was used as soon as it arrived. Now it is left for several years in vast magazines, open on all sides, like cages, that the air may penetrate into it. During the frosts they are covered with coarse sail cloths, to defend the wood from the inclemency of the air, nearly as is practised in Italy to preserve the citron trees.

But we have had enough of ships and
gallies. Were I now, my Lord, to
set about telling how much I love and
honour you, I should never have
done.

LETTER IV.

For

L E T T E R IV.

To the same.

Peterburg, June 30th, 1739

I HAVE not a greater pleasure, my lord, than that of writing to you; and accordingly I enjoy it as often as possible. I am at length going to give you some account of this new city, of this great window lately opened in the north, thro' which Russia looks into Europe. We arrived at Peterburg, a few days ago, after having spent two at Cronstot, at admiral Gordon's: We left there our frigate, which, drawing eleven feet of water, could not have sailed up beyond Peterhoff; and we came here in a bark as handsome as it is well decorated, which the admiral lent us.

Seven

Seven months of the year one travels upon the Neva in barks, and the other five Months in sledges. The Czar had one of these in the shape of a wherry. When the wind was east or west, he went and came upon the ice with sails, carrying in that manner his orders from Petersburg to Cronstot, and from Cronstot to Petersburg. He guided his sledge with a pole pointed with iron, like to those which are used upon mount Cenis. By this means he had the pleasure of sailing even upon land.

But the greatest satisfaction he ever felt in his life, was when he sailed up the Neva in triumph, after having beat the Swedish fleet at Gango, in 1714; leading in his train the admiral prisoner, with a great part of his ships. He then really beheld the completion of his works. A nation which,

which, but a few years before, had not so much as a single sloop in the Baltic, was become sovereign of that sea, and Peter Michaeloff, formerly a carpenter in one of the docks of Amsterdam, merited, by this important victory, to be promoted to the rank of vice-admiral of all the Russias: a farce full of instruction, said a thinking man, and which should have been acted in the presence of all the kings of the earth.

This triumphal way, this sacred way of the Neva, is not however adorned with either arches or temples: from Cronstot to Petersburg, it is flanked with a forest on the right hand and on the left. In it are neither majestic oaks, tufted elms, nor ever-green laurels; but the most wretched generation of trees that ever the sun shone upon. They are a kind of poplar, quite different

different from those into which the
 sisters of Phaeton were transformed,
 and which shade the borders of the
 Po.

We listened in vain to hear the me-
 lodious song of birds, with which the
 Ozar had endeavoured to people these
 wild and gloomy woods. In vain did
 we cause numerous colonies of them
 to be transported thither from the
 southern provinces of the empire;
 they all perished in a short time, with-
 out even trying to leave some of their
 posterity.

After having sailed some hours in
 the midst of this hideous and silent
 wood; behold, the river turns at once,
 and the scene changing in an instant,
 as at an opera, we see before us the
 imperial city. On either shore, sump-
 tuous edifices grouped together; tur-
 rets

rets with gilded spires rising every here and there like pyramids; ships, which by their masts and floating streamers mark the separation of the streets, and distinguish the several quarters; such was the brilliant sight which struck our eyes: we were told, here is the Admiralty, there is the Arsenal, here the Citadel, yonder is the Academy, on that side the Czarina's winter palace. On our landing, Mr. Cramer, an English Merchant, equally polite and well acquainted with the affairs of Russia, came to receive us, and it is at his house that we are lodged. Soon after, we had a visit from Mr. Rondeau, who has been many years resident of your nation at this Court.

When we were in Petersburg, we no longer found it so superb as it had

seemed

seemed to us from a distance; whether
 be that the gloominess of the forest
 had ceased to embellish the perspective,
 or that travellers resemble sports-
 men and lovers, I will not pretend
 to determine. However, the situation
 of a city built upon the borders of
 a great river, and formed of diffe-
 rent islands, which give room for a
 variety of points of view and effects
 of optic, cannot but be fine. When
 one recollects the huts of Revel, and
 of the other cities and towns in these
 countries, it is impossible not to be
 content with the houses and buildings
 of Petersburg: but the ground upon
 which it is founded is low and marshy,
 the immense forest, in the middle of
 which it stands, is frightful, the ma-
 terials of which it is built are not worth
 much, and the plans of the buildings
 are not those of an Inigo Jones, or a
 Palladio.

There

There reigns in this capital a kind of bastard architecture, which partakes of the Italian, the French, and the Dutch: this last is, however, the most prevalent, and it is no wonder. The Czar's first studies were in Holland, and it was at Saardam that this new Prometheus took the fire with which he animated his nation. It seems likewise to have been solely in remembrance of Holland, that he planted rows of trees along the streets, and intersected them with canals, which certainly are not of the same use here as at Amsterdam and Utrecht.

The Czar obliged the Boyards and Grandees of the Empire to leave Moscow, in the neighbourhood of which their estates were, and to settle where the court removed to. The palaces

most of them are upon the banks of the Neva, and it is easy to see that they were built out of obedience rather than choice. Their walls are all cracked, quite out of perpendicular, and ready to fall. It has been wittily enough said, that ruins make themselves in other places, but that they were built at Peterburgh. Accordingly, it is necessary every moment, in this new capital, to repair the foundations of the buildings, and its inhabitants build incessantly; as well for this reason, as on account of the instability of the ground and of the bad quality of the materials. If therefore we are to call happy those *quorum in mania surgunt*; how completely so must be the Russians, who have the pleasure to see their houses raised anew more than once in their lives. That

in

in which we lodge is one of the most solid, Mr. Craamer, if he did not build it, came to live in it of his own accord, and takes great care of it. It is situated upon the side of the river in a charming position, and when one is in it one thinks one's self in England.

We talked of marine at Admiral Gordon's; you may easily suppose, my Lord, that commerce is our top now with Mr. Craamer. I could make you a volume of all I have learnt about it in the few days that we have lived together.

It may very safely be asserted, that the trade of the North is as active as that of the South: the one furnishes the inhabitants of the temperate zones, with the greatest part of the super-

superfluities, such as tea, porcelain,
 muslins, &c. and the other what they
 and most in need of, as corn, hemp,
 on, and such like merchandize.

Russia abounds principally in pot-
 ashes, leather, flax, hemp, pitch,
 on, rhubarb, and timber. About
 ninety English ships come every year
 to Petersburgh; it is they that carry
 on the greatest trade. They carry
 wither tin, lead, hardware, indigo,
 ampeachy wood, rock alum, and
 wollen cloth in such quantity, that it
 is commonly said the Russian army is
 clothed with English cloth. The
 whole amounts to the value of one
 hundred and fifty thousand pounds
 sterling. They take in exchange two
 hundred thousand pounds worth of
 goods of the country, so that the bal-
 ance

ance is fifty thousand pounds in favor of Russia.

Very few Dutch go so far as Petersburg. They do their business generally at Narva and Riga. Besides corn, wood, and hemp, they take honey and wax which come from the Ukraine; and, besides salt, they leave in payment woollen stuffs and spices. This last article is of very great importance; especially in the North, as the balance between these two nations is thought to be equal.

The trade of Russia with Sweden is entirely to the advantage of the former. The Russians furnish Sweden with very many furs, and quantities of corn and the produce of Esthonia; whilst they take hardly any thing from the Sweden.

contenting themselves with their own
 on, though of an inferior quality.

Russia sells also furs to Poland, to
 considerable amount, and makes, in
 every respect, the most of its neigh-
 bourhood.

As to France, there is very little di-
 rect trade between these two nations,
 and nothing is more uncommon than
 to see a French ship in these seas,
 which however does not prevent there
 being an incredible quantity of French
 commodities in Russia. France draws
 from hence, by means of her wines,
 her rich stuffs, her laces, her snuff-
 boxes, her millenary wares, and other
 glittering gew-gaws, which serve to
 feed the luxury of the Czarian Court,
 the gold that the English leave at
 Petersburg.

Nothing more sumptuous than the high days at this Court: especial care is taken at Lyons to put gold and silver by whole ounces into the tissues intended for Russia. It would be difficult to determine whether this ostentation is the effect of the government of women, who are naturally fond of shew and dress, rather than the consequence of the administration of foreigners; who, by this means, impoverish the natives of the country. The fact is, that it began in the time of Catherine; that it increased under Peter II who was but a child; and that it is now carried to the highest pitch. Things were far otherwise during the life of the Czar, who, with the arts and manufactures, had imbibed from Holland the love of frugality. The Boyards who are obliged now to spend every year, a great part of their

some in laces and cloaths, used formerly, by the Sovereign's command, to build a ship.

In nations whose own products suffice for their luxury, that luxury excites industry, makes money circulate, attracts it from other people, and thus is of manifest utility : but among those where it is only transplanted, where it cannot be kept up but by the industry of foreigners, sumptuary laws become indispensable, if one would not see all the money go speedily out of the country. Accordingly Sweden and Denmark have recourse to them, as to the only remedy ; and it seems as if Russia would not do better than imitate their example.

There is, however, a species of luxury little in vogue in our climates, to which it is less suitable than to those

of the North, which might be advantageous to Russia. It is that of furs which may be worn there three-fourths of the year. You know, my Lord, that Siberia, reputed in all respects a bad country, furnishes however Europe with ermines, sables, white wolves, and black foxes. There are furs which, for the fineness, length of colour, and lustre of the hair, are rated at an incredible price; and a Russian furrier is as dexterous at distinguishing all these qualities, as an English jeweller is at knowing the water of a diamond.

Furs are much in fashion in Turkey; they form the principal part of the trade which the Russians carry thither. They likewise send some to Persia: but their traffic there is trifling, though they might easily

very considerable advantages from its neighbourhood. The vast empire of Persia has no other communication with the Indian sea, but the port of Gombroon, otherwise called Bender-Abassi; and the Russians might easily, by means of the Caspian sea, buy up the fine silks of Ghilan, and distribute them afterwards to the European manufacturers.

This, my Lord, has not escaped the notice of your countrymen. An English company has just obtained from the government the privilege of trading to Persia, by the Caspian sea. It is not to be wondered at, that Russia should favour a nation whose trade is so beneficial to her; a nation, which, by the discovery of the port of Archangel, was the first in Europe that trafficked directly with her; and

which, not to speak of the other services she has done her, has taught her the use of the Arabic cyphers, and even first made them known to her.

Of all the nations of Europe, the Russian is the only one that trades by land with the Chinese; and also the only one from which these last take goods in exchange for theirs: they do not deliver them to any other but for real bullion. However, what they do take consists only in peltries, which are necessary in the Northern parts of that empire, which extends from the summer tropic to the fiftieth degree latitude. This branch of trade amounts to seventy thousand rubels a-year, and the profit of it is, if I may be allowed the expression, for the Empire pin-money.

To go from Peterſburgh to Pekin, to make purchaſes there, and to return back, the caravan employs three years. It paſſes through Tobolſki, the capital of Siberia, where it ſtops. It afterwards turns off through the country of the Tonguſki, of Irtuſki, and croſſes the Lake Baikal, and the deſart which leads to the great wall. It is received in the deſart by a Chineſe mandarin, at the head of ſome hundreds of ſoldiers, who eſcort it to Pekin.

I owe all theſe particulars to one Baron Lang, who was ſeven or eight times the conductor of the caravan; and who, for his reward, has juſt been appointed vice-governor of Irtuſki; that is to ſay, of a province much larger than France, and which contains fewer inhabitants than the ſmalleſt pariſh in Paris. Do not imagine, my Lord,

that the Russian traders, when arrived at Pekin, have liberty to go and come, and follow their business: they are shut up in Caravanserais, where they are kept guarded within sight, nearly as the Dutch are in Japan. When the Chinese think it is time, they carry them tea, a little gold, raw silks, old stuffs, pagodas, and porcelaine of the worst sort; the whole consisting chiefly of refuse goods, and the rubbish of their warehouses, and then they wish them a good journey. Now I leave you to judge, my Lord, whether the Chinese be the greatest tricksters in the world, or avail themselves of the distress and necessity of these poor Russians.

In the sale that was made the other day of the goods brought by the last caravan, I saw an old clock of Tompion's, quite shattered, and in a con-

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ion never more to mark the time of
 the day. It was literally a dead body,
 is the Chinese term it. You know,
 my Lord, that, with all their dexteri-
 y, they have not yet learnt to make
 those ingenious machines in which we
 imprison time. They buy them of
 your nation, and it is the only Euro-
 pean production that is admitted at
 Canton. When a clock is out of or-
 der, they say it is dead, and lay it aside
 till the arrival of an English ship. They
 immediately carry it thither, and ex-
 change it for a live one, giving or re-
 ceiving somewhat to boot according to
 circumstances. The English, who
 have always some journeyman watch-
 maker on board, easily revive the dead,
 and then sell them as fresh arrived
 from their country. This is, I believe,
 the only kind of industry in which we
 have the advantage over the Chinese.

Tom-

Tompion's dead body was purchased very dear by a German Baron, who in the Russian service, and who intended thereby to pay his court to the Empress. She is always present at the auctions of Chinese goods, which are held in a great hall of the palace, called the *Italian*. When a piece of silk, a piece of porcelaine, or any other thing is put up to sale, the Empress herself often bids for it; every one of her subjects is there allowed to contradict her, each endeavours to out-bid her, each wishes to hear his name proclaimed for some lot or other, and he who pays dearest for it, thinks he has well employed the day. We ourselves were permitted to be of the number of purchasers.

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This is not the only, nor the most considerable branch of trade that re-
 ounds to the profit of the Empress. Rhubarb, salt, pot-ashes, a great part
 of the hemp, half the iron, beer, brandy, and spices, are sold and
 bought for her account; or, which is the same, for that of the Empire. The
 drinking houses and public baths de-
 pend also on the government. The credulity of the people occasions a great
 concourse at those drinking houses; and if they are not so much frequented
 as in England, the baths are almost as much so as in Turkey.

The profits which arise from these different objects, form a part of the revenues of the state. The rest of it consists in customs, tolls, and a capitation of seventy copeiks, or three shillings and two pence sterling a-head. The
 Boyards

Boyards or proprietors of lands pay great
 for each of their male vassals, and to the
 amounts to somewhat more than ha titun
 of what they produce them. The pon
 Turkish impost is a very easy way provi
 know exactly the number of people bour
 the Empire. They are reckoned and o
 be seventeen millions of souls, exclu ne ex
 five of the conquered provinces, which may
 perhaps do not contain one million to fift
 You see, my Lord, that this is but bel
 handful of men for an empire much ey, a
 larger than that of the Romans. The r abou
 have likewise here another means ng; a
 numbering the people: it consists nd par
 the method which is practised to revenue
 cruit the army, each province being mount
 obliged to furnish one man out of ever those
 hundred and thirty-five, one;

The revenues of the empire are fa gely ch
 ther considerably increased by a ve re, br
 gre

great quantity of lands which belong
 to the crown, and which continual for-
 titures do not let diminish. So that,
 upon the whole, including what the
 provinces are obliged to furnish in la-
 bourers, cattle, corn, wheat, barley,
 and other commodities, according to
 the exigency of the state; the revenues
 may be estimated at from fourteen
 to fifteen millions of rubels; the
 rubel is taken here as a nominal mo-
 ney, and equivalent to two rixdollars;
 or about three millions of pounds ster-
 ling; an immense sum in the North,
 and particularly when compared to the
 revenues of Sweden, which do not
 amount to two millions sterling, and
 those of Denmark, which are scarce-
 ly one; especially too if one considers
 the country, where every thing is amaz-
 ingly cheap. In the heart of the em-
 pire, bread, beef, and all other neces-
 saries

aries of life, do not cost the sixth part of what they sell for in England. A galley without guns stands the government in no more than a thousand rubels*, and the soldier does not receive in money a third of the pay that is given in France and Germany.

Such are the revenues of Russia, and the sinews of the war she is now engaged in with the Turks: to carry on, hitherto, the ministry have not been obliged to have recourse to any new taxes. However she cannot, without subsidies, keep armies in Germany where the thermometer is much higher in every respect; because she is then obliged to pay, in ready money, the subsistences which her own provinces

furnish

* 100 copeiks make a rubel, and a rubel is equal to 4s. 6d. sterling.

gnish gratis, and to increase considerably the pay of the soldier. So that, notwithstanding the disproportion there is between Russia and Denmark, or Sweden, in the treaties of alliance contracted with her, the same articles of expence must be allowed as with those two powers.

But to whom am I saying all this? To you, my Lord, who, without going out of your closet, know it better than he who traverse seas; as your Newton knew the shape of the earth, before the French went to measure it in Lapland. It therefore is only the pleasure of conversing with you, that has induced me to dwell upon all these details; and I have confided in the reciprocal indulgence with which friends pardon each other the mere things they say. I hope to hear from you by the next mail: never
was

was courier more impatiently expected. Adieu, my Lord, continue to love me, and sometimes think of me,

Seu civica jura

*Respondere paras, seu condis amabilem
carmen.*

LETTER

I think
tly lon
ade, an
Vol. I

LETTER V.

To the same.

Petersburg, July 13, 1739.

IN this Northern and arid clime, a
 Naples lemon, a Florence citron,
 any yet more valuable production
 of the South, would have given me less
 pleasure than your letter. I am glad,
 my Lord, that my last epistles, which
 you will soon receive, contain an anti-
 cipated answer to a part of what you
 desire to be informed of: it shall not
 be my fault if you are not equally sa-
 tisfied in regard to the rest.

I think I have given you a suffi-
 ciently long account of the marine, the
 trade, and the revenues of this em-
 Vol. I. H pire:

pire: I question whether I can do the same of its military state. All that can say in this respect is, that when I stopped at Revel, to look at the soldiers who composed the garrison of that place, Mr. Cleiss was right in telling me to go on, and that I should see quite another thing at Petersburg. In effect, nothing is finer than the three regiments of guards, *Prebaranowski*, *Imailofski*, and *Simoneski*. They are the flower of the whole army, like the grenadiers in France: they compose a body of about ten thousand men stout, tall, and, at the same time very active; in short, they are the most brilliant troops one can set eyes on.

Their uniform is green, and the grenadiers wear helmets of boiled leather, surmounted with crests of feathers.

bers after the Roman fashion. All
 his war they have remained quiet, ex-
 cept only one detachment which has
 joined the army. They compose the
 garrison of this capital with the regi-
 ment of *Ingermantaski*, which is not
 inferior to them in any respect. The
 guard of the sacred person of the Em-
 peror is intrusted to them; and like
 the Prætorian bands of old, and the
 minifaries now, they give and take
 away the empire at their pleasure.

They succeeded, as you know, my
 Lord, the famous *Strelitzes* extirpated
 Peter I. Those *Strelitzes*, who were
 forty thousand in number, and the on-
 ly standing army that there was for-
 merly in Russia, were also the pillar of
 despotism. Michael Federowitz infi-
 ltrated them, in the beginning of the
 of the century, to controul the *Sobor* or

Senate, which had limited the power of the Czar, to just what that of the King of Sweden now is. They enjoy the same privileges, and fought in the same manner as the Janissaries. When Russia was at war, the new-raised levies from each province were joined to the finest of the infantry, as is done in Turkey; and besides the Calmucks and Cossacks, the inferior nobility possessing fiefs called *Dieti Boyarskie*, (sons of Boyards) mounted their horses, and is now practised by the Timariots among the Turks.

The different orders, as well military as ecclesiastical, were formerly regulated in Russia upon the model of Constantinople, and are now upon that of Germany. The Czar had already learnt there to make himself the head of the religion of his country.

and to keep constantly on foot a numerous and well-disciplined army. At his death he left the rich inheritance of two regiments of guards, fifty of field infantry, thirty of dragoons, and sixty-seven others called garrison regiments; in all an hundred and ninety thousand men.

The Empress, who now reigns, has not let her patrimony diminish. She has augmented the body of guards, to whom she owes her sovereignty, (for after the death of Peter II, in the midst of so many troops, the Russians were seized with a fit of liberty) with a new regiment of three battalions and five squadrons, who, created by her, are wholly devoted to her. Russia had not any Cuirassiers: this Princess has raised three regiments of them; as also twenty of militia, to guard the

lines of the Ukraine, and defend the country against the incursions of the Tartars; so that the whole of the army now amounts to two hundred and forty thousand men.

Marshal Ogilby was the first instructor of military discipline in Russia; and it has been carried to a very great perfection by Marshal Count Munnich, *extremis Europæ jam nunc victor in oris*. Though Europe seems now to decree the military palm to Prussia, I doubt whether more exactness in the evolutions and other different exercises would be found at Berlin.

Certain it is, that there does not seem to be any nation fitter for war than the Russians. Desertion is absolutely unknown among them; a circumstance owing to their attachment

to their religion, of which they know
 they would not find even a vestige in
 other countries. Their patience under
 adversity, and untoward events, will
 bear any trial, as will also their docility.
 Accustomed, in their excursions at
 home, to change incessantly their cli-
 mate; they are strangers to the several
 distempers which new countries and
 long marches occasion elsewhere;
 and they can moreover say with the
 ancient Latins,

*Durum à stirpe genus, gnatos ad flumina
 primum*

*Deserimus, sævoque gelu duramus Et un-
 dis.*

For comment on these lines, you
 must know, my Lord, that it is the
 custom of this country to throw their
 children, from an oven in which they

are kept a certain time, into cold water or among ice. By this means they become inured to heat and cold, and are rendered more invulnerable to the effects of the weather, than Achilles was to those of spears and arrows. Yet every foot soldier, besides his arms, carries always a cloak, a vestment almost continually necessary in these frozen regions. They twist it up, and pass it from the shoulder to the opposite hip in the manner that the sword-belt was formerly worn. In case of need they unfurl it, and wrapping themselves up in it, they sleep upon the snow as comfortably as in the best bed.

Neither is there need of much cooking here to feed the soldiers. A certain quantity of meal is distributed among them, and as soon as they are encamped, they dig ovens in the ground

where

where they bake their bread, which
 they make themselves. When it is
 intended to treat them, they have a
 sort of very hard biscuit, which they
 break into little bits, and boil with
 salt and a few herbs which they find
 every-where. The greatest part of the
 time they are strictly abstemious, be-
 cause, though dispensed from the lents
 and fasts, which engross more than
 half of the year with the Greeks, they
 nevertheless choose to fast. Such sol-
 diers would have been fit for Crom-
 well; who, it is said, ordered a fast
 to be proclaimed throughout his army
 when he was in want of provisions.
 Allow too, my Lord, that Machia-
 vel, who observed in Switzerland ma-
 ny remains of the manners of the an-
 cients, would have found at least as
 many among the Russians, who besides
 remind
 when

remind one, in some manner, of the
grandeur of the Roman empire.

As a farther confirmation of the
thought, I might likewise instance here
their firm belief, that they fly to eter-
nal glory in dying for the Empire
which answers to the Roman citizen's
love for his country: and their dex-
terity at using the hatchet, with which
alone they perform things which other
workmen would not be able to execute
without a great number of tools. In
the last war against Sweden, the Rus-
sian soldiers built galleys, as Labienus
legionaries did ships, for Cæsar's ex-
pedition to England. Very lately
peasants, to whom it was only said
"Go to the forest, cut down trees
and make a thing like this," built
a fleet of them. The carvers who
we saw at Cronstadt, cutting out

of the sorts of Arabic figures, in the Anne
wanowna, were likewise only peasants,
provided with no other tools than a
hatchet.

In a word, every Russian soldier is a
carpenter in case of need. You see,
my Lord, what great utility results
from thence, from mending of wag-
ons, repairing the carriages of the ar-
tillery, making of bridges and such
like works, which are wanted every
moment in military expeditions. It is
the whole of this taken together that
constitutes the basis of a good infantry;
and that of the Russians, disciplined
and commanded as it now is, deserves
to be looked upon as the best in the
known world. Not so their cavalry.
This vast empire does not produce
horses fit to mount the Cuirassiers; they
must be fetched from Holstein: those
of

of the country are not strong enough even for dragoons. In all this part of the North, to which may be added Sweden and Poland, the horses are small, and proper only for hussars.

With regard to light horse, the Cossacks and Cossacks fill them as abundantly. The government can raise sixty thousand of them; and, though it gives them no other pay than leave to plunder the enemy's country, they may be perfectly easy about their subsistence. They are of great use to an army upon a discovery, to steal a march upon the enemy, or a change of position, and to molest and harass them incessantly. With all this, however, they often do almost as much hurt to the army on which they depend, as the ravages they commit. Like the Tartars, they spread destruction around them.

em where-ever they go, and even
 their chiefs cannot restrain them; it
 being impossible to subject them to that
 exact discipline, the first foundation of
 which is the regular pay of the soldier.
 The Russians think, and with reason,
 that the infantry is the finew of an ar-
 my: accordingly, in the day of battle,
 their custom is to make the greatest
 part of their cavalry dismount and fight
 on foot.

As to the artillery, upon which the
 event of war now principally depends,
 they have brought both the making
 and the managing of it to great perfec-
 tion. The Russian cannon were for-
 merly of such enormous magnitude,
 that they were quite unfit for service;
 but, in some measure, to the empire
 itself, which made a great figure in a
 part of the world, and in which there
 was

was not a person able to draw a map of it. It is not now very long since they had no other fire-arms than what they got from foreigners. It is less than a century since Alexis Michaelowitz procured from Brescia eight thousand carabines, which are still preserved in the arsenal of Moscow. They are many monuments which certify the late great ignorance of these people who now yield in no respect to any other.

At Systerbeck, not far from Peterburg, there is a very fine manufacture of arms, established by Peter the Great and towards Moscow there is another. An officer, who superintended the making of thirty-three thousand muskets last year, has assured me, that, on the being put to the proof, not above eighty in a thousand burst, whilst, at

he, half of these that are made in
xony fly in pieces. Now a musket
mounted, and ready to be put into the
hands of a foot soldier, costs no more
than two roubles, or about nine shil-
lings, which is but the price of a knife
in England. They have likewise gun-
powder almost for nothing.

There are also in Russia two very
considerable trains of artillery. One of
them is placed in the Ukraine, frontier
the Tartars and Turks; the other
on this side of the empire, within
reach of the new conquests. The for-
tified places are besides abundantly pro-
vided with cannon; and each battalion
has two field pieces and a mortar. In
1744, there were reckoned in Russia
thirteen thousand pieces of cannon, and
that number has since been greatly in-
creased. The Matrosses are as brave a
body

body of men as they are fine to look at: their uniform is red and black, with gold-button holes. It is to a Scotchman named Bruce, that the empire is indebted for the good order which now reigns in the artillery, and the science of fortification.

Thus, if I may be allowed the expression, there is nothing farther wanting in Russia, to complete the temple of Mars, but an establishment in favour of invalid soldiers. The seamen have indeed an hospital facing Cronstadt; but the humanity of the Russian Princes has not yet been signalized by any foundation for the aged or infirm land forces. As to their policy, they have managed so, that the sons of the greatest Lords begin with bearing arms, like common soldiers; and serve, as such, an apprenticeship to the military. One

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Vol. I

Mr. Rondeau shewed me the son of a
knave, that is to say, of a Lord, stand-
 ing centinel at the door of his house;
 for the foreign Ministers have here a
 guard. These young gentlemen are
 subject to the same punishments as the
 other soldiers, to irons and to the
 halibout, in case of need. The officers
 themselves are not exempt from the
 rodgel; in which they may comfort
 themselves by the example of the Ro-
 mans, among whom, as you know,
 by Lord, the rods were a punishment
 common to the soldier and the of-
 ficer.

At every review, the inspectors ex-
 amine most strictly into the conduct of
 every officer, and write down every
 particular that they learn about it, in
 luminous registers, which are depo-
 sited in the Chancery and College of
 War,

War, where they are consulted upon every occasion. The waggon-loads of writings, which follow the army, ought not to be ranked in the number of least embarrassments; as likewise among the officers of the Grand Marshal, the Grand Equerry, and other principal officers of the Crown, the writers are by no means the least numerous part. In short, in this despotic government, a register is kept of every thing that passes, be it never so trifling. One would almost be tempted to say, that the Russians, who do not begin to write till long after the rest of Europe, strive to fetch up the lost time.

Foreigners, and chiefly the military, whom the sword suits better than the pen, find it difficult to reconcile themselves to these continual writings.

patience

experience is requisite, and the number of those who get their living by them, very considerable. The foreign officers in the Russian service, and especially Germans, are counted by thousands. Four distinguished themselves particularly in this great number; these are Loewendahl, Keith, Lascey, and Munich; the two last of whom now command the victorious armies of the empire.

Loewendahl is very witty, understands every language, knows all the courts, and all the armies of Europe, a florid speaker, intrepidly bold; and, it is said, singularly intent upon making his fortune. *

I 2

Keith,

* After the revolution of Russia, he went to the French service, where he distinguished himself at several sieges, and particularly at the taking of Bergen-op-Zoom.

* Keith, a man of sound judgment, has obtained more submission from Russian officers by mildness, than others by severity: in the midst of arms, he has always found means to cultivate letters, and to the practice of war he joins the deepest and most reflected theory. *

Lascy, grown hoary beneath the sun, met, saw the dawn of the glory of Russia under Peter the Great: he never meddled with any affair of state, and has always known how to obey whoever had the chief command. It is related of him, that, at Pultava, he asked the Czar whether his army should reserve their fire, till they were ordered to open it, or whether they should fire at once. The Czar answered, "Fire at once, and save the day." He was killed at the battle of Hochkirchen in 1758, in the service of the King of Prussia.

* This was the celebrated Marshal Keith, killed at the battle of Hochkirchen in 1758, in the service of the King of Prussia.

within a few paces of the Swedes, or whether they should fire at the usual distance? The Czar was at first surprized at this question; but perceiving his drift, bid him defer firing, and that was one of the principal causes of the victory. It was he who led the Russians along the Rhine, till they had joined Prince Eugene's army. The closest intimacy soon took place between these two generals; and the Russians and the Germans seeing their chiefs, naturally men of few words, converse together for whole hours, and they had rendered each other prisoners. He has the character of being sparing of blood, and of waiting patiently till opportunity offers. His soldiers salute him by the name of father *Iska*.

to It is not so of Munich, who passes for being lavish of blood, more feared than loved by the troops, and entreprizing beyond what the bounds of duty prescribe. "Thank God!" cries he, on seeing the French land at Danzick, "Russia is in want of hands for her mines." A bravado, however, not enough suited to a General, and so spread confidence in an army. Through an excess of ambition, he would wish to have universal command; and must be owned that his great qualities would render him worthy of it. The empire is much indebted to him, and particularly among other establishments for that of the college of Cadets, which is composed of three hundred gentlemen, distributed in different classes or rather divided into different companies. They are taught the languages, dancing, fortification, riding, fencible

fencing, in short, all the arts suitable to the military profession. Their academical exercises are to form, upon the Neva, forts and polygons with ich, to attack and defend them, and to give specimens of the utility they will one day be of to the state which maintains and educates them: in short, this college is a true military seminary. It occupies the palace Menzikoff, thus employed to a better purpose, than in displaying to the eyes of the nation the luxury of a favourite.

Petersburg owes likewise to Count Junich, the ease with which it is supplied with provisions, and, in a manner, its daily bread. This great city, consisting of an hundred and twenty thousand inhabitants, is situated at the extremity of vast morasses, and an immense wood, which, covering above

an hundred leagues of ground, reaches
 to Moscow. It draws the greatest part
 of the provisions necessary to life, from
 the country which lies along the banks
 of the Volcova, and in the neighbour-
 hood of Novogorod, where the soil is
 less barren. In the winter, when all is
 frozen, sledges come regularly, and
 without difficulty, to Petersburg, by
 the Lake and the Neva, and bring
 it plenty of every thing that is wanted.
 The case is different in summer: boats
 cannot fall down so easy, on account
 of the West winds, which reign almost
 constantly here, and of the terrible
 squalls to which the Lake is subject.
 impediments which have more than
 once occasioned even a famine in Pe-
 tersburg, and were the cause that
 when the Czar founded this city, upwards
 of an hundred thousand men
 perished for want of food.

as remedied this inconvenience, by
 completing along the borders of the
 lake the inner canal, begun by the
 czar, to join the Volcova to the Neva;
 by means of which the barks now
 arrive in summer, as regularly at
 Petersburg, as the sledges in winter.
 This General would therefore well de-
 serve to have a statue erected to him,
 with an inscription like that we read
 over one of the gates of Paris, *Abun-*
antia parva.
 But this letter is long enough. I
 embrace you, my Lord. May the ex-
 cellent milk which your fine park of
 James's furnishes you with in plen-
 ty, and the puddings which are your
 food, long preserve you in perfect
 health!

LETTER VI.

LETTER VI

To the same.

Petersburg, July 19th, 1719

THE other day, my Lord, I heard a person compare Russia to a great white bear, whose hind claws rest upon the borders of the frozen sea, in which it floats; whose open mouth is turned to the South, facing Persia and Turkey, and whose fore feet are wide extended towards the East and the West. The great Statesmen of the North, Oxenstiern and Frederic William, Elector of Brandebourg, said it should neither be untied, nor provoked, nor made to stand up upon its feet. Charles XII. committed this imprudence; by repeatedly beating it, he taught it to do

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our a part of his dominions, and thereby made it known to Europe, to which the first rendered it formidable.

The truth is, that Russia has nothing to fear from the North, being herself the extremity of the world on that side. The North winds so fatal in other countries, where they blow colds, coughs, and disorders of the stomach, are here salutary. It is they, which, freezing over the marshes and rivers, make convenient ways, in the midst of depths and of the worst of roads; and open in winter the interior commerce of this vast empire. The Russians then set out in a sledge, with their merchandize, and provisions for several days, and talk of going seven or eight thousand wersts*, with as much ease as we should speak

* $104\frac{1}{2}$, or, according to some, 105 wersts equal to a degree of the equator.

Speak of going from Rome to Naples
or from London to York.

To the East, Russia borders upon
China; and if she should ever chance
to have war with this empire, one might
well say of her,

Imbellem avertis Romanis arcibus Indus

The Tartars and the Calmucks, who
she incloses as it were in her bosom,
are no longer in the least to be feared
by her. If they formerly rendered her
tributary by means of their incursions,
a single battalion of Russians, with
only two field pieces, would now de-
feat many hordes of them; not to ob-
serve that several of the Calmuck na-
tions acknowledge the sovereignty of
Russia, and serve her as a buckler and
advanced guard.

The Caspian sea, which it is almost impossible to navigate, for want of ports and places to anchor at, separates, together with some deserts, Russia from Persia. Georgia, a country which professes the Greek religion, likewise serves the Russians for a boundary on that side; and, in case of a capture, would not fail to side with them. At all events, however, the sterility and the bad air of the Persian provinces situated along the Caspian sea, which would necessarily be the theatre of the war, seem to insure a long peace between these two empires. Russia has restored them with a good peace to Kouli Kan, though she had sacrificed so many men to conquer them. She feels that she is in the case of the famous law *de Coercendo Imperio*: the Czar himself used frequently to say, that

that he was not ambitious of new conquests, that he perhaps already possessed but too much; and that all he wanted was water.

Russia is equally secure on the side of the Turks. They cannot attack on the side of the Ukraine, which is the most Southern, the finest, and the most fertile province in Europe; they are separated from it by an immense desert, where one often goes several days journey without being able to find any water. It is true, indeed, that Borysthenes descends from Kiovia, capital of the Ukraine, to Oczakow, which is a Turkish frontier; but the cataracts of that river render it next impossible for even a boat to go down it.

However, both the Kuban and the
 Tartars are so situated as to be
 able to make incursions into Russia,
 and they often give proofs of it. They
 penetrate into the Ukraine, set fire to
 the villages, carry off the families,
 and retire immediately, having no
 means to support themselves in it.
 Twenty regiments of militia which have
 been raised, by the advice of Count
 Suvoroff, now guard the lines that
 have been drawn all along that pro-
 vince, from the Borysthenes: they are
 defended with forts, placed at proper
 distances, which give warning, by sig-
 nals, on what side the enemy is advan-
 cing.

To be absolutely rid of them, it is
 important to the Russians to keep
 Azoph: this place is a check upon all
 the

the hordes of Kuban. To restrain
 wise those of the Crim, they should
 masters of Kerçi, an excellent
 which commands the Streight or C
 merian Bosphorus. A small fleet
 there, would make them be respect
 on the Palus-Mæotis and on the Black
 sea. It would be sufficient to hinder
 the Tartars from stirring beyond the
 peninsula, and would put even C
 stantinople, which subsists in a great
 measure by the product of the Crimean
 in a sort of dependance: it was
 Czar Peter's design; and, if the
 present war ends happily, it may perhaps
 be carried into execution.

By entering through Moldavia
 Poland, the Turks would be the
 better able to break in upon Russia,
 because it would be much easier for them
 to find subsistence in that part, than

side of Oczakow. But then they
 it likewise fight the Poles, who
 ould not see quietly the infidels ad-
 ce upon their lands ; and they cer-
 ly could not rely much upon the
 ldavians, who, being of the Greek
 gion, would not willingly bear arms
 inst the Russians, who are of their
 munion. Besides, Kiovia, an im-
 tant place, considering the manner
 which towns are fortified in that
 t of Europe, commands on that
 , and defends the pass of the Bo-
 enes, which must absolutely be
 sed before they can penetrate into
 Ukraine ; and this province will
 ays furnish the Russians with so
 y resources to carry on the war,
 , in every respect, they must have
 advantage over the Turks.

I do not speak, my Lord, of Poland which lies West of Russia. A country that has neither troops nor strong places, and where there must be the unanimity of a whole diet to pass law, whilst a single negative is sufficient to set aside its authority, and dissolve it; such a country, I say, like America formerly, is the conquest and prey of whoever attacks it. That kingdom, which made a brilliant figure during some late ages in the then barbarous North, and whose victorious arms sometimes prescribed laws even in Moscow, must now receive the law tamely from all who think proper to dictate to it. Through the anarchy which reigns in it, Poland is a prey open to Russia, which will always claim its feeble Kings with the

as it does the Dukes of Cour-

The Swedes then are the most formidable neighbours Russia has; and now that the greatest part of her forces are employed against the Tartars, and that her marine is inconsiderable, she is not without some apprehensions from them. At the time when Count d'Osterman was negotiating, with all the finesses of the cabinet, that peace of Aland by which the Great terminated his long wars with Sweden; a Cossack Chief, named *Scranacrofska*, which signifies red neck, went to the Czar, and addressed him thus: Father, if thou really desirest to remove out of thy way those thorns, the Swedes; let me do it, I beseech thee. I will go with my Cossacks, and exterminate every

" man, woman, and child, in
 " land; so that, I swear to
 " thou shalt not have an enemy left
 " that country. We will render
 " desert, which is better than ten
 " tresses."

Such are the politics of the
 as you know, my Lord: but you
 likewise know, that, independent
 all consideration of power and force,
 Russia has great conveniences to make
 war against Sweden, whereas Sweden
 cannot attack Russia but with many
 difficulties. They consist in, that it is
 impossible for the Swedes to form
 magazines in Finland, an extremely
 barren country, where the inhabitants
 upon the bark of trees, mixed with
 bread, and, some years, upon
 bark only.

Neither would they be able to get
 subsistence from Livonia and Esthonia,
 because, upon the first suspicion of
 war, all exportation of corn from
 those countries would be prohibited.
 To victual themselves in Poland, they
 would stand in need of a great number
 of ships, and consequently it would be
 difficult for them to do it secretly,
 without obstacle. They must like-
 wise necessarily cross the sea, to carry
 their army into Finland, and, lastly,
 they have not any strong places
 there.

On the contrary, the Russians possess
 Wiburg, an important and well
 fortified town, and Carelia, a country
 intersected here and there with mo-
 untains, woods, rivers, narrow passes,
 and therefore very fit to spin a war out
 to length, in case of need; especially

as it is in a manner surrounded by very fruitful provinces. If the Swedes as well as the Danes, by reason of their trade, are superior to the Russians in sea forces and large ships; these surpass them greatly in the number and quality of their galleys, which almost be ranked as land forces. They can, by their means, molest their enemies every where; and, after the example of Scipio, carry the war to the very fire-sides. We may therefore believe, that Sweden will think of it more than once, before she attacks Russia and exposes herself to lose, in a short time, the great advantages she has obtained since the peace of Aland.

But if peace is to be wished for Sweden, it is not less to be desired for Russia, in order that she may fully, the fruits of the Czar's new

on. Howsoever glorious the wars, in which he was engaged so many years, may have been to him, they cost him men; which are every where the principal riches of states, and of which, on account of her vast extent, Russia is in very great want. It is asserted that the present war, in particular, in five years that it has lasted, has diminished the empire of upwards of two hundred thousand inhabitants.

Spain and Russia are perhaps the two countries the most advantageously situated, to give laws to the world. The one, placed in the middle of the Ocean and Mediterranean, and naturally mistress of the Streights of Gibraltar, is defended by the Pyrenæan mountains, on the only side that she touches the continent. The other, situated between Asia and Europe, with frontiers

of which nature has rendered the greatest part inaccessible, has for the rest the weakness of her neighbours, and can easily extend herself on which ever side she may think most to her advantage. But of what use is the one capable with six or seven millions of inhabitants; and the other with a population less than that of France, though her lands are twenty times more extensive?

One would think, that the principal object of the Russians should now be the peopling of their country, and principally the Ukraine, their best province, entirely ravaged by this war. It might, however, be dangerous to transport thither colonies of Ostiaks of Samoyedes, and of those other Northern nations, almost useless to an empire; they might, by their dis-

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ative size and their deformity, spoil
the breed of men there. The best way
therefore would be, to purchase Tar-
r families, and to attract thither the
Moldavians and the Walachians; who,
being united to Russia by the ties of
the same religion, and looking upon
her as the seat of the Greek empire,
would gladly flock to settle there.

The population once increased; it
would be easy to improve agriculture,
in a country which yields the husband-
man ufurious returns; and it would be
equally easy to rear there numerous
flocks of sheep; so that the govern-
ment would no longer be obliged to
have recourse to foreigners for wool,
and for their manufactures to cloath its
troops. It might then apply to work-
men of the mines, which, for want of
hands, is now almost totally neglect-
ed.

ed. There are some of them in Siberia, very rich in iron; and others have been found in the neighbourhood of Moscow. Lately too, a copper mine, said to be very rich, was discovered near Kola. This vast empire certainly contains mines of many other sorts.

The working of the mines, if properly set about, and rightly managed, would be the means of making a second and fatal war against Sweden, who converts her copper and her iron into gold. In times of peace, the government, unless nature has thrown insurmountable obstacles in the way, might execute the Czar's great design, joining the Caspian sea with the Euxine by cutting a canal from the Tanais to the Wolga. In general, it would be easy for the government to render the

From
Lord,
crown

much more useful to the country than it is. To this end, the crown need only renounce the several kinds of monopolies it now exercises, and allow commerce more liberty. Unfortunately, it happens but too often, that those who govern are actuated by views quite opposite to the general good of the nation, and that is particularly the case here, where the court seems solely intent upon preserving the authority it is in possession of, and keeping in an equal dependance the common people and the great. To this end, a military government is necessary: *Imperium armis acquisitum, armis restituendum*, said Hirtius to Cæsar.

From all this you will conclude, my Lord, that if the succession to the crown of Russia should ever be settled on

on a solid foundation, and if, after long peace, a prudent, ambitious, and active Prince should fill that throne, nothing will be able to stop him in his career, nor to defeat his enterprises. It seems not improbable to think, that these two empires, which by the nature of their frontiers, have nothing, or next to nothing, to fear from their neighbours; which have numerous and well-disciplined military troops; which are formed of millions of men speaking all the same language, and professing the same religion, whose government is fine is military; may end with remaining masters of the field of battle in Europe, and afterwards combating between themselves for the sovereignty of this fine part of the world. Our children will perhaps be spectators of that great contest: we have already

then these two formidable powers try
their arms against each other.

I know not, my Lord, whether I
shall be able to write to you again be-
fore my departure from hence: but
as I do know, that I shall always love
and respect you, as the honour of an
and which is that of Europe.

LETTER VII.

L E T T E R VII.

To the same.

Dantzick, August 13, 1769.

ON the 21st of last month, just as we were getting under sail from Dantzick, I received, my Lord, your letter in answer to that I wrote to you from Elsinore, and in which you desired me to acquaint you with all that I have been able to learn concerning the present war of Russia against the Turks. This war, of the highest importance, by the end which the Russian government proposed to introduce in it, and which tended to nothing more than rendering tributary, and even sub-

ject

ecting the capital of the Ottoman em-
 re, is equally singular by the nature
 of the country it was necessary to
 march through, and that of the na-
 tions it was requisite to fight. The
 generals, charged with the manage-
 ment of it, have been obliged, in con-
 sequence, to depart from the common
 rules of the military art.

Previous to my account of the best
 formations I have received about
 I must however tell your Lordship,
 that after having happily escaped, for
 the second time, the dangers of the
 gulph of Finland, we anchored at
 Antzick on the second of this month.
 This city also lately took a fancy to
 try the weight of the Russian arms,

Caris Augustæ non responsura lacertis.

Her

Her expences to increase her u^l and
garrison of twelve hundred men
three thousand, were very great; g,
damage she suffered from five thousand
bombs, which the Russians threw with
in her walls, was yet greater; and
ended with paying some hundred thousand
sands of rubels into the treasury of the
Empress, whom she had imagined her
self able to resist. The deputies which
the city sent to her on this occasion,
Petersburg, were most graciously re-
ceived; but could not possibly ob-
tain a single copeik abatement of the
sum they were assessed at.

Thus Dantzick learnt to her
as Marseilles did formerly in the time
of Cæsar and Pompey, not to meddle
in the disputes of the great; and from
henceforth she will probably think

est to be content with her Consuls
and municipal officers, her yearly in-
come of eighty thousand pounds ster-
ling, her garrison, her fortifications,
with the three hundred brass cannon
she has in her arsenal, and in being se-
cured against the incursions of the
Poles, in their confederacies.

As to the rest, the present constitu-
tion of the kingdom ought to make
her perfectly easy, and it does not appear
that she has any thing to fear for her
privileges, her Hanseatism, or her li-
berty. Poland and Lithuania together,
have scarcely eight thousand troops on
foot, and this is not the only evil of the
state. That universal *Veto* of each
Councillor, cannot be looked upon in any
other light than a *Veto* to the general
good of the country; and the electing

of a King spreads desolation through
five or six times in a century.

Zealous citizens will likewise be
it, that the want of toleration in the
kingdom is a fatal wound, particul-
ly to its population and trade; and
that to this is owing that it is over-
with Jews, who carry away all its
money. What might one not farther
of the slavery of the peasants, and
the jurisdiction of the Starosts and
others, who exercise rights which
not belong to any but the Sovereign.
It is much to be lamented, add
staunch patriots, that the liberty of
land should depend on the good pleas-
of the neighbouring powers; when
secure it, and render the republic
spectable in their eyes, nothing
need be done than remedy the dis-
orders of the constitution. This

One would restore its antient splendor to a kingdom one of the most considerable in Europe, watered by a great river which opens into the sea, abounding in men and corn, and which wants nothing but good government, and its daughter industry.

Yet, my Lord, all these abuses will persist; too many people are interested in the continuation of the present anarchy. But, at all events, if Dantzick should depend upon the crown of Poland, the whole kingdom would be in some measure tributary to this city, mistress of the mouths of the Vistula. The Polish Lords send thither, by means of that river, their corn, in which their only revenue consists, and give it to the Dantzickers; the Poles being allowed to vend it directly to

foreigners, but during the space of five
days only, which the fair lasts.

The Dantzickers lay it up in
granaries, which occupy a considerable
part of their city. They afterwards
sell it to the Swedes, who give in
change their own iron and china ware
and principally to the Dutch, who are
foster-mother Dantzick is. It is re-
puted, that the value of the corn ex-
ported from hence yearly amounts
a million sterling. It was formerly
much more considerable, when Polish
wheat was sold even in the Mediter-
ranean. We all know that Venice, at
time of great scarcity, was victualled
by Dantzick. This diminution of
only branch of commerce that Poland
has, is imputed in a great measure
the progress which agriculture has
made in England, and to the bound-

which are granted there upon the exportation of corn when it is plentiful.

Next to corn, the greatest trade of Dantzick consists in brandy. This city is for the North, what Corfou and Zara are for the South. She sells to the amount of six thousand pounds sterling of it every year to Petersburg only. In the time of the Empress Catharine, she sent thither twice that quantity; and those were the fine days of Russia, say the brandy-merchants of Dantzick.

Now, my Lord, that I have told you what seemed to me most interesting with regard to Dantzick, and you know that travellers are apt to be provoked, I shall proceed to the war which

the Russians are carrying on against the
 Turkey.

The motive, or, if you like it better, the pretext of the war, was to chastise the Tartars, who, for a long time past, ceased not to infest the Southern frontiers of the empire. The most considerable among them are those of the Crim: it is said they can bring into the field eighty thousand men. Besides that peninsula, they possess on the continent the lesser Tartary, situated along the Southern part of the sea of Azov and the Black-sea. They have colonies, or under their dependance, the Kuban, who inhabit the Northern shores of the sea of Azov; and the Budziack, who are settled about the Niester, and extend from the Danube. The Crim Tartars live in towns, and under a temperate climate.

against the Tartars, and cultivate a country rich in
 cattle and in corn. The others wander
 in deserts, and cultivate only here
 and there a few spots of land.

They all acknowledge the Porte for
 their Sovereign and Protectress. By
 means of Caffa and Baluklava, in which
 there are Turkish garrisons, she com-
 mands the Crim: she keeps the Ku-
 besid Tartars in subjection, by Azoph
 which she possesses at the mouth of the
 Danais; and, lastly, those of Budziack
 Bender, situated upon the Niester,
 and Oczakow, situated upon the west-
 ern shore of the Borysthenes, at the
 place where, after having received the
 Dnieper, it falls into the sea.

Like the other Mahometan Tartars,
 they live by plunder; whilst the Cal-
 mucks and Mungals, idolaters by re-
 ligion,

ligion, wrong no one, but feed upon
 their own cattle, like the Patriarchs
 old. The Russians have thrown
 against those of Kuban and the Crimeans
 their most formidable enemies, the
 great entrenchments: the one extends
 from the Tanais to the Wolga; and
 the other, inclosing a space of
 hundred leagues, reaches from the Borys-
 thylenes to the Donetz, a river which
 falls into the Tanais above Azoph.

The fine province of Ukraine, be-
 tween which and the lesser Tartary
 runs the Samara, is the principal field
 of the incursions of the Crimeans.
 It was formerly in alliance with the
 public of Poland; and has since placed
 itself under the protection of Russia,
 which, since the defection of Mazepa
 its Chief or Hetman, has reduced it
 into a province of the empire. It is

uated in a fine climate, and is rich in
 cattle, honey, wax, and all sorts of
 grain. Its inhabitants are the Cossacks,
 of the Greek religion; a warlike peo-
 ple, who have always been at blows
 with the Tartars, their neighbours.
 These last, much more powerful, and
 constantly in the field, infested the Uk-
 raine continually, carrying off from all
 parts of it herds and families. Their
 Chah has a tenth of the plunder, and
 the rest is divided between their Mur-
 dars, or Captains, and the soldiers.

They had of late indulged them-
 selves in these lawless proceedings with
 much the greater licentiousness, as
 they saw a reciprocal misunderstanding
 prevail between Russia and the Porte.
 Besides the transient discontents, which
 arise daily between two rival and conti-
 guous empires, on one side the Turks
 suspected

suspected Russia of favouring, on the
 hand, their scourge Koult Kan; and
 on the other hand, Russia showed
 great resentment at the Turks not only
 claiming a right to pass through cer-
 tain provinces dependent on her, but
 even going so far, in their expedition
 against the Persians, as to violate her
 territory. The Porte thereupon stir-
 red up the Tartars against Russia; and
 they undertook, or rather continued
 the war so much the more willingly,
 they knew the forces of their enemies
 were employed in Poland, where the
 events, which all turned to the advan-
 tage of the Russian arms, served only
 the more to irritate the Turks.

In several incursions, the Tartars
 made a great booty in Ukraine, and a
 considerable number of slaves, who
 were sold publicly at Constantinople.

taken from declared enemies: After
 any ineffectual complaints and wri-
 tings, Russia recurred to the last argu-
 ment of Sovereigns; and, to chastise
 these robbers, she chose the time when
 the troubles of Poland, to which coun-
 try she had given a King, were on the
 point of ending, and when Kouli Kan
 distressed the Turks more than ever in
 Asia.

In 1735, after having assembled an
 army in the Ukraine, the Empress or-
 dered General Leonteff to penetrate
 to the Crim, with twenty thousand
 regular troops, and eight thousand
 Cossacks; and to put every thing there to
 fire and sword. But setting out too late,
 she could go no farther than Cammer-
 ton, upon the Borysthenes, after ha-
 ving routed a few hordes or compa-
 nies

nies of Tartars, whom he met with
the desert.

Next year, 1736, the campaign
more serious. The affairs of Poland
being terminated, and peace agreed
between France and the Emperor
to whom Russia had sent succour
this last turned all her forces against
Tartars. During the winter, Count
Munich assembled an army upon
Tanais, which invested Azoph
in the spring. A fleet under the com-
mand of Rear-Admiral Bredal, con-
sisting of several gallies and di-
other ships, the crews of which
been brought from the Baltic,
down from Veronitz. It carried
heavy artillery ; and to cover and
port the siege, it took possession of
mouths of the river. Munich left
command of the army to Mar-

ascy, who was just returned from the
 German war: and, to complete the
 enterprise of the preceding year against
 the Crim, he went and resumed the
 command of the other army, which had
 been increased in Ukraine, where the
 principal seat of the war was establish-

He was obliged there to cut down a
 prodigious number of trees to make
 waggon of, to lay in considerable stores
 of meal, and to collect a very great
 number of men, horses and oxen, to
 transport provisions, for six months,
 through countries which yield nothing
 for forage. It was likewise necessary
 for him to provide quantities of casks;
 in order not to be without water in de-
 serts, where, frequently, during several
 of his journey, not any is to be met
 with.

Munich,

Munich, having thus thought every thing, left the Ukraine. His army marched in one or more squares according to the ground; with provisions and baggage in the centre. Nothing was seen all around, on whatever side one looked, but the sky, the grass of the fields, and the Tartars who came by different intrenchments to attack him in one part or other. When repulsed on one side, they disappeared in an instant; and sometimes so great were their numbers, they surrounded the whole army, like a thick cloud.

They were opposed by the Cossacks and dragoons, who, divided into several squadrons, marched at the angles of the square; and, in case of need, were instantly supported by the infantry, armed with long pikes, and provided with

chevaux

chevaux-de-frise, which, set on fire with expedition, served for an intrenchment: but most commonly the Tatars were dispersed by a few volleys of artillery, of which the army conducted a numerous train. Sometimes, when the Russians had the wind in face, the Tatars set fire to the grass, which grows to a great height in those deserts. Their only defence then was, to dig ditches with all speed, and throw up a rampart against the flames, which spread victoriously a long way around.

As the army advanced, the Russians erected little forts from space to space, to preserve their communication free with the Ukraine; and Munich left in a place called Somara, a small intrenched camp, with a thousand men, and some pieces of artillery, and moreover defended, before and behind, by the other

other little forts. Just so it was the European colonies, advanced America, towards the habitations the savages; and Julius Agricola the very same precautions, when undertook the conquest of Scotland, kingdom then unknown and desolate. To secure his rear, and link, as it were, his army with the provinces before subdued by the Romans, we find that he took care likewise to build forts from space to space. Only the chain of Russian forts was much longer, particularly because the want of water did not allow them always to follow the shore way, and that, to seek it, they were sometimes obliged to make two or three marches out of their road.

With all these precautions, and these difficulties, Munich advanced towards the Crim, leading an army

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as the thousand regular troops, and a
 greater number of waggons; whilst
 of Lascy, less numerous, itraiten-
 more and more Azoph, which he
 unately took in the month of July.
 us this important place, which, be-
 that it keeps the Kuban in sub-
 on, commands the Tanais and the
 as Mæotis, beheld again, three
 ago, the Russian eagles upon its
 parts. The Czar Peter had taken
 1697; but, by the peace of Pruth,
 was obliged to restore it. The Ku-
 Tartars likewise experienced the
 geance of the Russians: they were
 en without mercy by one Donduc-
 oo, Chief of the Calmucks who
 towards Astracan, under the pro-
 on of Russia.

s, and
 advan
 n arm
 unich, after almost continual skir-
 es in the desarts he had to cross,
 OL. I. M being

being arrived at the famous line
 Precop, prepared to attack them.
 They defend the entrance of the C
 and are flanked with several towns
 which formerly foiled the Russian army.
 The Cham was intrenched in them
 all his troops, among which were
 companies of Spahis and Janissaries.
 Munich having made a feint to attack
 them on one side, in reality fell upon
 another, and by that means easily
 defeated them.

Before he penetrated into the country,
 he sent, under the command of
 Leonteff, a great detachment towards
 Oczakow, in order not to have, in
 his rear, the Tartars of Budziack,
 the Turks who had already begun
 to be in motion in that part. Leonteff
 seized Kimburn, a small fortress,
 situated upon the Borysthenes, facing

now; whilst the Grand Vizir, encamped on the Danube, reinforced the garrison of this last town, as well as that of Bender, watched the motions of the Austrians, who, having made a treaty with France, under pretence of contributing their troops in more commodious quarters, formed an army in Hungary, and defended the frontiers of the empire on the side of Christendom.

Having entered the Crim, Munich Kossow, a rich trading town, situated on the sea; Bacifaray, the residence of the Cham seated almost in the middle of the Peninsula, where he kept the palaces of that Prince: he resided in the same manner Sultanaray, the place of residence of the Sultan; Leongga, otherwise the presumptive heir of the Cham; but in the middle of his reign, when he threatened to exter-

minate the whole country, he stopped short at once. Finding the course which led to Caffa, the principal object of his views, laid waste by the Tatars themselves, he was sensible that it would be extremely difficult for him to take that city.

Above all he feared lest they should cross the marshes of the Palus-Madagascari by tracks which they know; and afterwards, joining those of Budziack, attempt jointly with them to break into the Ukraine. This was really the scheme: they hoped to be before hand with the Russians in quickness, or at least to find them harrassed with fatigue; and, by the plunder of the Ukraine, to make themselves formidable for the disaster of the Crimean.

Munich therefore wheeled round towards the lines of Precop, which he seized in several places; and having retained Leonteff, who had demolished Amburn, at the same time too much within reach of the Turks, and too far distant from the Russian frontiers, to think of keeping it, he led his army back into the Ukraine, in the beginning of autumn; victorious indeed, but reduced to one-half, by the continual accidents and hardships it had undergone.

Even the winter did not suffice for the troops to recover from their vast fatigues. That is the very season which the Tartars choose for their enterprizes; because of the convenience of finding the swamps and rivers frozen, and of being thereby enabled to fall upon whatever place they please. Besides,

Munich's expedition forced them to defer till then the execution of their design. The Russian army was therefore obliged to pass almost the whole winter in action. A part upon guard against the Crim Tartars, was employed in defending the lines; along with after the example of what Cæsar practised at those of Dyrachium, signals of smoke gave instant notice of the enemies approach; the other part took the look-out for those of Budziskie kept incessantly breaking the ice of the Borysthenes, in order to prevent their crossing it.

However, notwithstanding the strictest watch, the Tartars penetrated more than one part of the Ukraine, and carried off from thence a very considerable booty. They draw the bow and handle the lance and scimetar,

mitable dexterity. Each of them
 two or three horses; they mount
 sometimes one, sometimes another,
 in case of need, march five-and-
 twenty leagues a-day. If a horse is not
 to proceed, they kill him, and
 eat upon his flesh with their com-
 mions; or they turn him loose in the
 art, where they afterwards find again
 mp, and well recovered. They
 y with them only what is absolute-
 necessary, and that can be but little
 need, for people accustomed to feed
 on the flesh of their horses and the
 k of their mares. So much are
 y inured to cold, that, in the seve-
 nights, they make no fire, for fear
 discovering themselves to the ene-
 Their cloaks, supported by a
 sticks stuck into the ground, serve
 for tents, and the saddles of their
 ses for pillows. During the winter,

their horses graze upon the grass
find under the snow, with which
are forced to be content for their
drink. The main body of the
halts near the enemy's frontier
then detach different parties,
are ordered to rejoin them on a
day, and generally return to the
laden with plunder, as they did
year.

Scarcely was the war begun,
these various successes, when propo-
sals were made for peace: the Persians
and the Austrians were the principal
mediators. Kouli Kan had promised
not to conclude any treaty with the
key, unless Russia was included in it
but in this point he shewed little good
faith, or great indifference. In fact,
was scarcely seated on the throne, when
finding upon his hands the rebels

Candahar

Candahar backed by the Mogul, against
 whom he was determined to march ;
 he could not be sorry to see the Turks
 at war with the Russians in Europe,
 whilst he was going to over-run the
 richest part of Asia. As to the Au-
 strians, in the design they were in of
 repairing the losses they had just sus-
 tained in their war with France, they
 thought of attacking the Turks, al-
 ready harrassed by the Persian war, and
 thrown into fresh difficulties by that of
 Russia ; so that, whilst they proposed
 peace at Constantinople, they prepar-
 ed every thing in Hungary to take the
 field in the spring.

In the mean time, opinions were di-
 vided, in the cabinet of Petersburg,
 with regard to the resolution most pro-
 perly to be taken. Count d'Osterman,
 an experienced minister, of established
 reputa-

reputation, fond of peace so necessary to the empire, and trusting with confidence to leagues; advised indeed to chastise the Tartars, but at the same time to avoid an absolute rupture with the Turks. He said, that the last campaign sufficed for the safety and honour of the empire; that it was imprudent to expose it to danger, by engaging it in so difficult and burthensome a war; that the Tartars were rather provoked than subdued; that the Turks, just rid of the Persian war, might bend all their forces against Europe; that they already augmented in the Black-sea, the fleet which they had sent thither the year before, to prevent, if possible, the siege of Azoph; that they had reinforced the garrison of the Crim, and were daily increasing their army upon the banks of the Danube; that it was therefore proper

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tend to the wise maxim which says,
 that one may begin a war when one
 pleases, but that it cannot be ended
 when one would choose; that success
 is uncertain; and that, in continu-
 ing the war, the desolation of the best
 provinces of the empire was unavoid-
 able; in fine, it was in a manner im-
 possible to keep conquests made upon
 the Turks, nature having established
 between them and Russia real limits,
 immense deserts.

On the contrary, Count Munich,
 whom the Empress had called from the
 army to give his opinion in this impor-
 tant deliberation, and who sought on-
 ly to render himself necessary, and to
 make the world talk of him, advised
 war with all his might. He said, that,
 with such timid prudence, no enter-
 prize

prize would ever be set about; that nothing was so hurtful to time, as time and that, all things considered, there could not be a fairer opportunity that the Turkish empire was agitated within itself, by the dubious fidelity of the Bacha of Babylon, and the motions of Egypt; that the Grand Seignior's treasury was exhausted; and that it was impossible for him to make war, without violent exactions which would make the people rebel against him; that the flower of his European forces had been destroyed by the Persians; and that his Asiatic troops were effeminate, and little fit to contend with well-disciplined soldiers; that however numerous his armies might be, a part of them would be obliged to face the Austrians, who were already preparing to attack him; that since they thought the present moment a favourable

ple one. Why should not Russia judge
 to be the same? That it would be
 wrong to expect ever to have a truce
 with the Tartars, if the Turks, on
 whom they depend, were not con-
 strained by dint of arms to conclude a
 peace glorious for the empire: that
 princes ought to resent injuries done to
 their Crown, in so exemplary a manner,
 to prevent even the hazard of their
 being repeated; that it was still far
 less the transient robberies and incur-
 sions of the Tartars that were to be re-
 garded, than the shame of the treaty of
 Kuth, the Caudian forks of Russia;
 and that it was high time to wipe off
 that ignominy: that a woman had late-
 ly saved the empire, and that it was re-
 served for another woman, heiress to
 both the dominions and the virtues of
 Peter the Great, to avenge it; that af-
 ter having given a King to Poland, and
 shewn

Thewn her armies upon the Rhine, the
 propitious events of the last campaign
 ought to inspire that Princess with
 just hope of accomplishing the Czar's
 great design, of mastering the Crime
 the chief granary of Constantinople
 and of having a fleet upon the Black
 sea: that if fortune continued to be fa-
 vourable, much more might be ex-
 pected; that the event might, per-
 haps, be nothing less than driving the
 Turks out of Europe and Constantinople,
 that metropolis of the Greek Em-
 pire, all the members of which look-
 ing upon the Czarina as their legitimate
 sovereign, placed in her their only hope,
 called upon her to deliver them from
 the yoke of infidels, and sighed on-
 ly for the moment of inlisting under her
 banners.

Munich had ingratiated himself by his expeditions against Dantzick and the Crim. His bold advice pleased the Empress; and, in consequence thereof, she determined to unite more closely than ever with the Emperor, and to continue the war with redoubled vigour.

The thread of the pacific negotiations was not, however, yet broken. While the parties were deliberating which would be the fittest place for the Congress, which was afterwards held secretly at Nimirow, a town in Poland, the Austrians declared war against the Turks, and immediately spread themselves in Bosnia, Servia, Wallachia, and Moldavia. In their manifesto, they expatiated greatly upon the dangers which threatened the Roman empire,

empire, since the peace concluded between the Persians and the Grand Seignior, and alluding to certain articles concerning the pilgrimage of Mecca and other matters of religion, which those two powers had agreed on, they asserted that Christendom was undone by the reconciliation of the sects of Omar and Ali, and the re-union of Mahometism, if it did not exert all its power against such formidable enemies.

Count Munich projected this year a more serious enterprize than that of the last campaign : it was the siege of Orzakov, defended by above two thousand Turks, and plentifully provided in every respect. In order to batter the town on the side next the river and at the same time have wherewith to oppose the gallies which the Turks

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keep there, to hinder the Cossacks
 from descending the river with their
 boats, and infesting the coasts of the
 Black-sea; a little fleet was built up-
 on the Borysthenes, which takes its
 rise in Russia, and passes through the
 Ukraine. But as there was a necessity
 for building it above the cataracts and
 rapids, through which this river falls,
 during a pretty long course, the vessels
 could be only flat-bottomed, and there-
 fore proved of very little service at

The fleet which the Russians fitted
 out upon the Tanais was much more
 considerable. It was intended, in case of
 war, to fight that of the Turks; and
 to back Marshal Lascy, who was to
 march into the Crim, to keep the Tar-
 tars employed there, and by that means

facilitate Munich's enterprize upon
Oczakow.

Very early in the spring, Munich
went out from the Ukraine with an army
of between sixty and seventy thousand
men, a very great train of provisions
and artillery, and two thousand camels
to carry the baggage and tents. He
divided his army into three bodies,
which passed the Borysthenes over three
different bridges: one of them was
Perewolozna, near the place where
Charles XII crossed the river when he
retreated to Bender, after the battle of
Pultava. This bridge was upwards of
three hundred feet in length, and rested
upon an hundred and twenty-eight
barks. Munich, having re-united his
army on the other side of the river,
quicken'd his march, as much as
possibly could, in order to arrive before

the new succours, which the Grand
 vizir, encamped on the Danube, was
 sending to Oczakow both by sea and by
 land; and having likewise crossed the
 river without opposition, he was within
 reach of the place by the end of
 the month.

The power of discipline was mani-
 fested in the attack of a great intrench-
 ment before Oczakow, defended by a
 considerable number of Turks, and
 at last of fortune in the taking of the
 town. The Russians attacked the in-
 trenchment three several times, though
 they were repulsed the two first, and at
 length their courage carried it. With
 regard to the place, they attacked it
 on the strongest side; owing to their
 having well reconnoitred it, and to
 their not having a plan of its works.
 They were moreover unprovided with

fascines, gabions, and the other necessities for a siege; these being on board the little fleet, which did not arrive till a fortnight after the surrender of the town.

What occasioned that surrender was a bomb which Munich's fortunate star directed to fall upon a magazine of powder. Under favour of the confusion which the flames occasioned in the town, the Russians stormed and entered it. The garrison were made prisoners of war with the Seraskier who commanded them; and it is said, that on this day perished all the fruit of the European discipline which Bonneval had introduced into Turkey, and which consisted in some companies of cannoners formed at his school. Loewendick and Keith, who animated the Russians still more by their examples than

their words, were wounded in the attack. Keith was thereby disabled from serving during the rest of the war: Loewendahl soon recovered, and continued it with great glory.

In the mean time the Turkish army, which increased every day under the walls of Bender, was already in motion; and this obliged Munich to remain before Oczakow, till he had repaired its fortifications. This General, forced by want of subsistence to return to the Ukraine, rightly foresaw that the enemy would not fail to endeavour to re-take that important place; and accordingly he did not retreat till after he had put it in the best posture of defence. In effect, he had no sooner departed, than the Turks appeared and laid siege to it. They lost a great many men in this attempt, and were at last

compelled to retreat, through the
 glorious resistance of General Stollf
 whom the little fleet left by Munich
 at the mouth of the river, seconded
 perfectly well. In the several sallies
 the Russians, the advantage of the
 pikes over the scimetars of the Tur
 was manifest: they had before exper
 enced the usefulness of the chevaux
 frize, against the Turkish cavalry.

Whilst Munich was advancing
 wards Oczakow, Lascy prepared,
 the same year 1737, to enter the Cr
 Many of his soldiers, and even sever
 officers, among whom were some
 the best in his army, by no means
 proved of this enterprize, and m
 mured loudly against it in his camp
 as formerly happened in that of Car
 when it was known that he was go
 to march against Ariovistus. After

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example, Lascey gave the discontented
 leave to retire; he signed their dismis-
 sions, and ordered a guard to escort
 them into the Ukraine. Three days af-
 ter, they acknowledged their fault,
 and begged leave to follow him.

He marched from Azoph, through
 the lesser Tartary, along the shore of
 the Palus Mæotis; receiving his pro-
 tections from the fleet which coasted it,
 under the command of Bredal. This
 general took care to secure his com-
 munication with Azoph, by a chain
 of forts; and upon the river Moloski-
 wodi, he erected a fort in which he
 put the sick. The Cham, with his
 troops, waited for him behind the lines
 of Precop, which he had restored;
 but he waited in vain.

At the distance of a few marches from the isthmus, there is on the coast of Tartary a kind of cape, called Geniczi; facing which, towards Arabat, a long slip of land projects out from the Crim. They are parted only by a very narrow channel, through which the Palus Mæotis enters into a great Lake, which bathes that part of the isthmus. Lasco, to deceive the Chagatai, who expected him at Precop, halted at Geniczi; and, having thrown a bridge over the arm of sea, crossed it easily with his army.

When he was within two days march of Arabat, he learnt that a body of Tartars had hastened thither, and defended the entrance of the peninsula. What was to become of him and his army, between two seas, upon a neck of land where a handful of men could stop

most numerous army; it being impossible there to make any disposition, and extend the troops so as to attack the enemy with the least hope of forcing a passage? Lascy ordered the Lake to be bridged, and, finding that the horses could have but a very little way to swim, he commanded a bridge or raft to be made as well as could be with the planks, chevaux-de-frise, and, in general, all the wood that was in the army, from the neck of land to the shore of the peninsula; and at the same time caused a large ditch to be dug from the Lake to the sea, to serve for defence to the rear-guard and the baggage. Thus, having no enemy before or behind, the army passed over at its ease. As the bridge had not consisted of planks enough to bear the horses, they were led by the bridle, and either fathomed

fathomed or swam as occasion required.

The Tartars abandoned Arabat and Precop, as soon as they knew that the Russians had entered the Crim; Lascey fell upon that part of the peninsula which Munich had not touched the year before. He took and burnt Caraybassar, one of the richest towns in those regions, and laid waste the whole country; skirmishing incessantly with the Tartars, who, mixed with the Turks, attacked him successively on all sides. At length, making feint of marching against Arabat, he turned to the left, and quitted the Crim, carrying off with him numbers of prisoners, and a great quantity of booty, by another slip of land called Schoungar, near Geniczli; and

is troops into winter quarters along
the Tanais and the Donetz.

Lascy's campaign was not attended
with any other events; unless one
could reckon as an occurrence of some
importance, an engagement in the
month of August, during two days,
between Bredal's fleet and that of the
Turks; after which, they returned;
one to Azoph, and the other to
Caffa, from whence they had come.

A third expedition which the Rus-
sians, still under Lascy's command,
made into the same country the follow-
ing year, 1738, was not more success-
ful than the former. The plan was
to take at length Caffa, (the antient
Theodosia,) in order to have a port
on the Black-sea, and a footing in
the

the Crim. This town, formerly
Messina of Greece, was well situated
to answer both these views, being
being the richest and most trading
place in the whole country. It has
an excellent road, with a very fine har-
bour, in which lies the Turkish
fleet of the Euxine sea. Besides corn,
butter, and salt, an incredible quan-
tity of salt-fish is purchased there,
distributed all over Europe, and
to the farthestmost part of the
dies.

Cassa was formerly the bulwark
of Christendom against the Huns,
from the depths of Tartary, over
this frontier of the Greek empire.
At last they took it, and the Genoese
who, when Constantinople was de-
claring, gave the law upon the Black
with their ships, conquered it.

m in 1266. That republic kept it
 wards of two centuries; till at length
 Turks, having settled themselves
 Europe, swallowed up every thing
 und them. Since their getting pos-
 sion of it under Mahomet II, they
 pt in it a strong garrison. There are
 to be seen in this town several mo-
 numents of the Genoese dominion.
 Lascy was obliged to give up his de-
 n upon Caffa, by the dreadful con-
 on to which the country he must
 ecessarily pass through, in order to ar-
 e there, was reduced; and princi-
 ly by the dispersion of Bredal's fleet,
 asioned by a storm. He depended
 it for the subsistence of his army,
 was to be backed by it in the siege.
 that this year the incursion of the
 ssians into the Crim, ended in de-
 oying the fortress, and a part of the
 lines

lines of Precop, and in skirmishing usual, against the Tartars; after which having left Donduc-Ombo in Azov with a good garrison, Lascey took his quarters in the Ukraine.

What was most singular in this expedition, was the manner in which the Russian army penetrated into the Crimea. It was neither by the Arabat neck land, nor by that of Schoungar, Lascey had intended. The Tartars had taken early possession of those points and guarded also the lines of the Crimea, with extreme vigilance. Lascey was quite at a loss what step to take, when a Tartar informed him of a place not far from Precop, where the river has very little depth, and which frequently is even dry for some time, when the wind blows from the West. Upon this, Lascey determined boldly to

fortune:; and the moment he saw
 a favourable wind arise, he disposed
 his army upon a line, forced his march,
 and passed into the Crim dry footed.

As to Munich, after the taking of
 Zakow in 1737, and his return into
 the Ukraine, he employed himself in
 giving the necessary orders to secure
 the province from the incursions of
 the Tartars, in recruiting his army,
 and in collecting provisions for the en-
 suing campaign. The Russians and the
 Austrians had to concert their opera-
 tions against their common enemies;
 and to contrive, if possible, to get
 between two fires.

The Austrians, who had attacked
 the Turks on every side in the begin-
 ning of the summer, and were reduced
 to the bare defensive towards the latter
 end

end of the campaign; proposed sieging Viden, a place situated on the Danube, frontier of Bulgaria, whilst, to facilitate this enterprize, Russians should send a numerous body of troops into Transylvania, in order to busy a part of the Turkish forces, which increased every day in Hungary; to make a still more considerable division, they demanded, that, Laszcy should penetrate into the Carpathians, Munich should undertake the siege of Choczim, a town situated upon the Niester, and frontier of the Turkish side of Poland.

Russia sent no army into Transylvania, those of Laszcy and Munich being equally in need of recruiting; instead of the siege of Choczim, it was resolved at Petersburg to form the siege of Bender. It was said at the Court

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port, that this diversion, which would
 ord an opportunity to complete the
 uction of the Budziack Tartars,
 ould also suffice to facilitate the ope-
 ons of the Austrians; and that a
 farther reason for fixing upon it
 , that, by this means, the troops
 ould not be removed to a distance
 n the new conquests, and that they
 ould always be within reach of the
 ysthenes, whose course they would
 y have to follow during the greatest
 of their march.

Accordingly, Munich crossed the
 ysthenes, directing his course to-
 ds Bender. He advanced with
 t precaution, encamping always
 n the borders of some river, for the
 enience of water and forage, of
 h there is a scarcity in those coun-
 The Russian army, in the midst
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of those deserts, was like a huge monster carrying with it its magazines, spreading terror all around where it appears. The sick in the army were less attended to than they are at home because it was impossible to erect hospitals in those arid plains, and to procure them any of the reliefs which are usual in the wars of Europe.

When the Russians happened to lay their hands upon any sheep or oxen belonging to the enemy, who always kept a-head of them; the feasting in their camp was like that on ship-board when, in the midst of a long voyage, fresh provisions chance to be received. As fast as the army consumed its provisions, the waggons were burnt, and the oxen which drew them were eaten.

being then no longer fit for any other
purpose.

Munich coasted the Niester for a
long time, in hopes of finding an op-
portunity to cross it, and to strike out
towards Bender : but the Turks, who
were on the opposite shore, and never lost
sight of him for a moment, prevented
him so doing. He was forced to be
continually skirmishing with the Tar-
tars, who, supported by a body of
cavalry, kept on the same side of the
river as he was, attacked him continu-
ally, one moment in the flank, ano-
ther in the rear, and succeeded wonder-
fully in carrying off his provisions.
Among the great number of skirmishes
which he was compelled to have with
them, some were so considerable, that
they might not improperly be called

battles. Had it not been for the valour of their General, and the discipline to which he subjected his whole army, the Russians were lost beyond recovery. Harassed in every shape, and obliged not to quit his arms, he shewed himself always equally ready to march, or to fight.

At length, extremely weakened by his continual victories, without the possibility of crossing the Niester, and far from being able to attempt any new enterprise; forced to think of his own safety, by so much the more urgent as the plague spread every day farther and farther in that country, he resolved to return into the Ukraine. But he took the precaution to raze Ochakow, which had cost the lives of eighty thousand Russians, and which it was impossible to keep this year, as

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arks had a numerous army near it; judged it most prudent not to de- at all a place which must absolute- be lost.

The wretched success of this cam- gn, as well on the part of the Rus- s, as on that of the Austrians, oc- oned mutual complaints between two allied Courts. The dissatisfied Vienna said, that Munich and Laf- had only justed against the Tartars, that their expeditions had been no- g more than mere tournaments, st the Austrians had to encounter Grand Vizir, with the flower of the oman troops.

he Russians said on the contrary, the war which they carried on was e serious than people thought; that d already cost them above an hun-

dred thousand soldiers, and that
 the mischief was owing to the Austrians, who, in 1737, had parcelled
 their army, abandoned the Danube
 their fleet, and neglected to march
 gainst Viden, a conquest then as
 as it was important, and on which
 a great measure, the success of the
 depended. They added, that in 1738
 the Austrians had lost Orsova, the
 wark of Belgrade, by the scantiness
 troops they had in the field, the con-
 nual changes of Generals, the fick-
 ness of their counsels, the instabi-
 of their resolutions, and other
 like disorders, for which they could
 blame none but themselves.

With these mutual discontents,
 allied courts continued the war
 year, 1739, when the mediation
 France, for a general peace, was

that length accepted by both sides. Laschy
 remained in the Ukraine. Donduc-
 bo, whom he left in the Kuban,
 kept up the war against the Tar-
 tars; pursuing them in their most inac-
 cessible retreats, hewing down all he met
 with, carrying off their women and
 children to people Russia, and form-
 ing betwixt it and Tartary a real de-
 tachment. Such is the manner in which the
 Orientals make war. By ruining the
 provinces which surround them, and
 transporting elsewhere their inhabitants,
 they think their frontiers better guard-
 ed than by the construction of the
 best fortresses.

The uneasinesses occasioned by the
 troubles were what kept Laschy in the
 Ukraine. They were in the closest
 correspondence with the Porte, of
 which they had been acknowledged
 friends

friends and allies; they held private conferences at Stockholm, with the minister of France, they expected from Brest a squadron in their ports, they worked incessantly at the increase of their naval forces, they had formed in Finland vast magazines of provisions, and under pretence of changing the garrisons, they sent thither daily fresh troops. Lascey remained therefore in Ukraine ready, at the first motion, to run with his army against the Swedes on whose side the government had taken care to put the frontier in the best state of defence.

It was settled with the court of Vienna, that, this year, Munich should march directly against Choczim, the strictest Poland. This expedient facilitated to the Russians the means of procuring provisions, and put them within reach of them.

backing the Austrians in Hungary.
 consequence hereof Munich was sent,
 the beginning of the month of May,
 with a body of troops, swelled with se-
 veral bands of Cossacks, to the Wes-
 tern shore of the Borysthenes, with or-
 ders to march on along that river,
 thereby seeming to intend for Bender,
 in the last campaign: but all on a
 sudden he crossed higher up, and en-
 tered into the Palatinate of Volhinia.

To set foot in Poland, and to de-
 mand a passage, was done at the same
 time. The reason alledged was neces-
 sity, which renders all things licit; and
 promises were made that every thing
 should be punctually paid for, and
 strictest discipline observed. The
 Poles, who, when they first saw the
 Austrians upon their frontiers, threaten-
 ed them loudly, in case they should at-
 tempt

tempt to disturb the neutrality of the republic, became mute, the moment they found themselves surrounded by their arms.

As to the Turks, they expected the Russians upon the banks of the Niester, and the moment they knew of their being in Volhinia, they crossed the river, and entered into Poland by Poland. While They said, that they followed the example of their enemies, whom, to the rest, it was their business to follow where-ever they were. In a very little time, the Tartars had over-run and plundered this fertile province, watered by several rivers, which form quantities of fine meadows; and which supplies the half of Europe with corn. The inhabitants of the country, frightened out of their senses, fled on all sides, abandoned their effects to the mercy of the enemy.

of the army of the soldiers, and thought on-
 of avoiding slavery. A striking ex-
 ample that, in order to be a quiet
 spectator of the wars of one's neigh-
 bours, one must be able to fight them;
 and that a neutrality is no farther re-
 spected, than it is respectably arm-
 ed. While the Turks proceeded no far-
 ther in Poland than barely to watch
 them, in Hungary the Grand Vizir
 turned all his views towards
 Belgrade. He found the siege of
 that important place facilitated by the
 taking of Orsova the year before,
 and by the weakness of the Austrian
 forces in that kingdom, where he
 proposed increasing their disorder still
 further, by being early in the field.
 His plan succeeded to his wish. Val-
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 ther in Poland than barely to watch
 Przemysl, in Hungary the Grand Vizir
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 Belgrade. He found the siege of
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 further, by being early in the field:
 his plan succeeded to his wish. Val-
 de Vaux, who commanded the Emperor's
 army,

army; let the Turks take the camp Croftka, near Belgrade; and afterwards imprudently resolved to attack them in it.

This General expected to surprise there a body of only sixteen thousand men; but he found in it the whole army, well intrenched, and defended the artillery of a redoubt, which flanked the adjacent country. His confidence made him even neglect to march with all his forces. He advanced through a narrow pass between mountains; and as fast as his troops filed off to put themselves in order of battle, they were received by the Turks, who had already made all the dispositions, and cut them in pieces one after another. The front of Wallachian army consisted chiefly in horse; whose operations the ground, which

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we were obliged to fight, was by no means proper. These, and other similar circumstances, occasioned, on the twenty-second of last month, the total defeat of the Russians; and now you may expect, every day, to see the Russians encamped under the walls of the city.

These, my Lord, are the latest accounts: we learnt them here at the residence of Massovia's, a Lady whose merit equals the high reputation of her illustrious spouse.

The END of the FIRST VOLUME.

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